

AUGUST 1997  
FACE  
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Of Sale

## Window on Jordan

By a Star Staff Writer  
**PICTURE THIS.** It's hot, and the sea is cool and inviting. You've just beat someone else to a couple of mattresses on the sandy beach. You are ready to let the hours pass by as you lounge under the scorching sun and enjoy the refreshing waters of Aqaba. Only one thing is missing: the drink you ordered half an hour ago.

Of the many things Aqaba is famous for, good service is not one of them. You're lying on the private beach of one of the few hotels in Aqaba that has one, and want to order a cold drink. When you finally get your drink, chances are it will not arrive alone. It will be served with an attitude.

There is a joke about just how bad the service can get in Aqaba. A man goes to the beach and calls for the waiter. "I am thirsty, what kind of cold drinks do you have?" The waiter smiles and says, "Well sir, we have fresh orange juice." The man orders one and soon enough he gets his orange juice.



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# The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

**Le Jourdain**  
Supplément en français du Star  
**Rentrée des classes : le joli désordre du premier jour**  
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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

## Women hope to increase their presence in the coming Parliament

By Iham Sadeq  
**Star Staff Writer**  
WOMEN HAVE caught the election fever. Independent feminists and women's groups are preparing for the coming parliamentary elections, two months away. Activists are urging women voters and candidates to exercise their constitutional right to vote and stand for elections.

Jordanian women have made their presence felt in the Jordanian political arena since the last elections, although they are still under-represented.

The first participation of women candidates in elections was in 1989, when 12 candidates stood for the general elections, but none succeeded. In the 1993 elections, the number of women candidates fell to only three, out of whom Toujan Faisal became the first woman to make it to the Lower House. Two female senators are now serving in the Upper House of the Parliament.

"The women's participation in the political life of Jordan is still below expectations," Senator Naela Al Rashdan told *The Star*. Though Jordanian women have maintained high positions in government, education and other social and cultural fields, Al Rashdan says "women's role in the political life is hindered by men's domination."

She believes that women's role in the coming elections must be enhanced.

"It is essential to allocate lessons at schools emphasizing women's role in society to create full awareness in the younger generation," says Nawal Al Fauri, member of Shura Council of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

She says that the government should contribute more to supporting women, giving them privileges at work and encouraging them to take part in various public institutions.

Currently, women's representation in the Lower House is limited to one deputy. Toujan Faisal won her seat on the Circassian quota.

"Toujan's success was great," says Nadia Bushnaq, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), Zarka branch. "One woman in the House is evidence that we are taking part in the decision making process."

Bushnaq is also the head of the Family Guidance and Awareness Center in Zarka.

Senator Al Rashdan, who contested the 1989 elections, and Bushnaq believe that the problem lies in women themselves who are reluctant to give their votes to other women. This may be because some of them are not confident that these women are capable of competing with men in the decision making process.

"What is astonishing is that women candidates get much more support from men," Al Rashdan says. She adds, "in the 1989 elections, I noticed that the votes I got from male voters was 80 percent, while the remaining 20 percent came from women."

Dr Huda Fakhouri is not satisfied with the political role of women in Jordan. "The unjust representation of women is not restricted to the Lower House, but is also evident in all governmental and non-governmental establishments," she says. The dental physician says that "we rarely have a woman occupying a senior position in government like a director of a department or a secretary general of a ministry."

Though women's presence in cabinet and parliament is limited, Al Rashdan points out that there is "an encouraging participation in municipalities. Of the 99 women candidates who ran for municipal elections, only 10 won, one of whom became mayor."

However, these women who are willing to contest the elections have to secure finance to cover their campaign expenses, but are mostly unable to do so without the support of the family or a political party.

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## UNRWA faces new cuts Palestine refugees fear agency's fate is sealed

By Raed Al Abed  
**Star Staff Writer**  
THE NEVER ending story of UNRWA's financial debacle is back in the news. This time, however, it is more serious than expected. The agency's latest decision to make cuts sparked widespread criticism in this country and elsewhere.

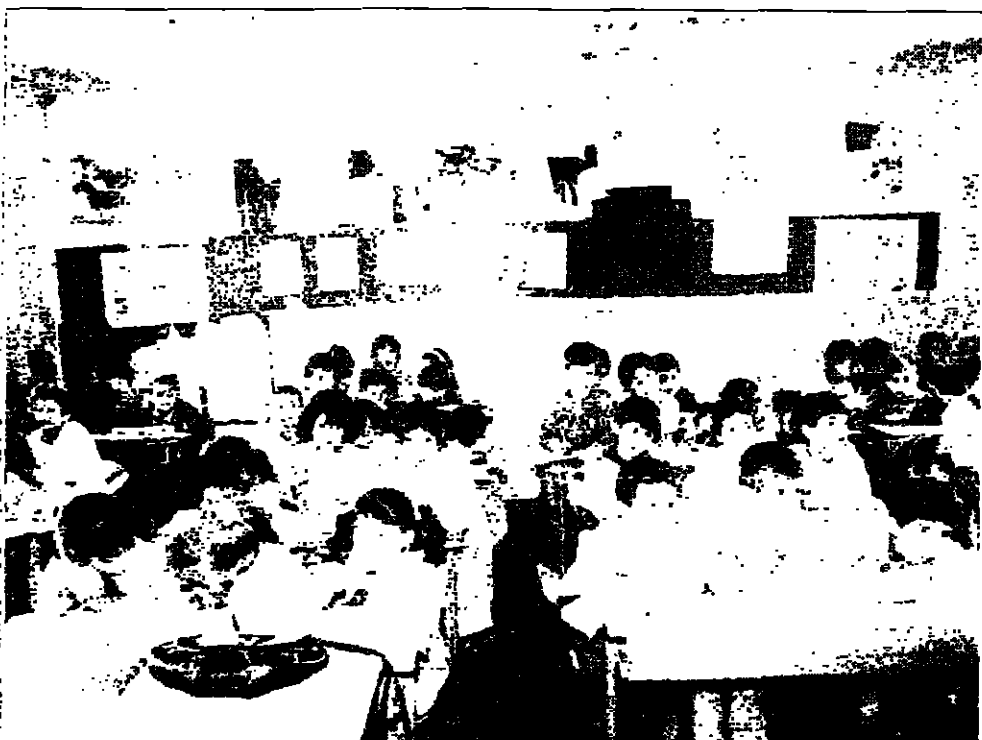
Since 1950, when the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees started, its survival has always been linked to the flow of financial contributions. And there was no shortage of conspiracy theories about attempts to cut short the life of the agency that caters to millions of Palestinian refugees.

"Unfortunately, I am compelled to introduce cuts and reductions because of the inadequate financing of UNRWA's budget and the \$20 million deficit in the last quarter of 1997," Peter Hansen, UNRWA Commissioner-General, informed Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, recently.

The agency has appealed to the international community to provide adequate financing to maintain UNRWA's services, emphasizing that 3.4 million Palestine refugees depend on the agency's services.

In Jordan, about 13 refugee camps' committees, home to about 300,000 refugees (UN agencies recognize only 10 camps) rejected UNRWA's plans to cut services. In addition, four executive committees of UNRWA workers, who also reject the agency's cuts, decided to establish a permanent committee to confront the latest measures which they believe are political and comply with donor countries' stance towards the refugee issue.

On the other hand Mr Ibrahim Al Tarshedy, director of the Palestinian Affairs Dept. of the Foreign Ministry, confirmed that the Jordanian government rejects any measures to reduce UNRWA's services, pointing out that "we reject any additional burdens on the refugees who already live in critical economic and financial conditions."



A classroom in an UNRWA school in Jerash camp

UNRWA's donor countries and refugee host countries are holding a conference in Amman next week to discuss the issue. Jordanian officials are presently holding extensive talks with other Arab states to reach a united stance based on rejecting any cuts in UNRWA services.

The United States, one of UNRWA's main donor countries, imposed great pressure during the agency's meeting in 1995 to end its mandate. In 1999 the agency's fate will reach a critical point if the series of budget deficits continue. The three-year renewed term will then be over, and it will be up to the UN's General Assembly to renew or cease the UNRWA mandate which according to its charter will be over when the Palestinian refugee problem is settled in accordance with UN resolution 194.

Agency officials say they are forced to cut services to avoid bankruptcy. The cuts cover important services in the Agency's three main programs: education, health, and relief and social services (reduced before). These include a 15 percent reduction in international staff and a freeze in the recruitment of 249 additional teachers needed to cope with the growth in the student population. Other measures include a discontinuation of the agency's portion of university scholarships, and a freeze in hospital reimbursements and referrals for November and December 1997, with special hardship cases exempt from this freeze. Emergency life-saving interventions will, of course, continue to be made.

The agency is also reviewing school charges as levied by the host authorities, with a view to adopting similar ones.

"Without these measures, UNRWA will not be able to make it through 1997," UNRWA claimed in a statement. "These cuts and reductions will guarantee that the cost of UNRWA's basic services survive intact."

However, Hansen said last month that the savings from these cuts cover one-third of the deficit of this year.

Dr Nafe Al Hassan, an international expert on refugees, believes that the claimed deficit of UNRWA is "fabricated."

"Every year the agency talks of a deficit, while millions were deposited during the 1950s to settle the Palestinian in their host countries. Other agencies that look after refugees like the UNHCR enjoy unlimited spending," Al Hassan claimed that UNHCR spent \$2 billion in Rwanda in April 1994, and that was within a two-week period.

There is widespread fear that talk about deficits in the organization is becoming part of the political agenda aimed at eliminating the status of refugees and preventing them from the right of return to their homeland.

But Al Hassan says that there are more sinister undertones. "They aim at imposing pressure on the Palestinian people to agree on any [negotiated] settlement."

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As she did in life, Diana, Princess of Wales, has captured the world by her untimely death. Her magical spell lingers on, as Britons and those who were touched by her humanity mourn their 'queen of hearts'. The Star dedicates a special coverage of Princess Diana's life; pages 6&7.

## Britain prepares Saturday for Diana's 'unique funeral'

By William D. Montalbano  
LONDON—Two proud families agreed with the British government to give Princess Diana a "unique funeral" that will combine the families' wishes for privacy with public demands to honor a woman who touched the nation's heart.

As planning advanced for the 11 am Saturday ceremonies that will blend dignity and modernity—and for which huge crowds are expected and will be welcomed, the government and palace made plain—Britain mourned its dead princess in a swelling wave of public grief. Central London was convulsed, with all traffic around Buckingham Palace closed because of crowds and flowers until after the ceremonies.

Tens of thousands of people, many weeping, waited in hours-long lines to sign condolence books and to lay flowers honoring the royal with the common touch. Landmarks of Diana's life and death in central London became touchstones for a spontaneous circuit of grief as a consuming sadness replaced initial shock among people for whom the slim, shy 36-year-old princess was a radiant national icon.

More than 50,000 mourners—from businessmen in suits to American tourists in shorts—gathered in lines that were sometimes half a mile long outside Diana's home at Kensington Palace. Banks of flowers created a moving tribute, an instant garden of remembrance. "To the greatest queen Britain never had," read one note.

Buckingham Palace logged 1.8 million visits to its Internet condolence page ([www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)); 60,000 wrote condolences in cyberspace. Notes of farewell, flowers seven feet deep—and one bottle of champagne—filled the sidewalk outside Harrods, the landmark department store in London owned by the Egyptian family of Diana's companion Dodi Fayed, who died with the princess in a Paris car crash early Sunday. "I will never be able to reconcile myself to the needless and cruel deaths of two people who were so vibrant, generous and full of life. God took their souls to live together in paradise," said patriarch Mohammed Fayed on Monday. Dodi, his eldest son, was buried after Sunday services at a London mosque. The 11,000 light bulbs that make Harrods a night-time London spectacle will not be switched on again until after Diana's funeral.

Amid calls for two minutes of national silence, many shops will be closed Saturday morning. Sporting events—cricket, rugby, horse racing—have been canceled and so has the weekly Saturday night drawing of the National Lottery.

On a sun-dappled day that tasted of approaching autumn, patient mourners waited as long as five hours to sign condolence books at St. James Palace, where Diana rests in a closed coffin before the altar in the 450-year-old Royal Chapel.

After its return from France on Sunday, Diana's body

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**INSIDE**

● People, page 8  
Photographer captures innocence of young.

● Weekend, page 11  
Monster movies make a creepy comeback

## Big thinkers to discuss big topics at Millennium Confab

By Dean E. Murphy  
PRAGUE, Czech Republic—The approaching new millennium has gotten some people thinking. Where will be the best place to party? Will all those zeros make my computer crash? Should I be catching the next comet out of here?

It has also gotten some people T-H-I-N-K-I-N-G—the 1-think-therefore-I-am variety of rumination. What has mankind learned from its mistakes? How can we reconcile

the victories of science with philosophical truth? What can we recommend for future civilizations?

This week, about 60 of the world's thinkers extraordinaire will convene here in the Czech capital at the invitation of Czech President Vaclav Havel and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel. It is unlikely they will dwell upon bookshelves for New Year's Eve, 1999. The agenda of Forum 2000 is as heady as its guest list is brainy. "This will be the task of the participants at Forum 2000: To review what we have learned about ourselves and each other and to propose alternatives for the future," Havel said in announcing the one-of-a-kind gathering.

The chosen thinkers include Nobel laureates, authors, politicians, scientists, professors, journalists and clergy.

After abandoning the original notion of inviting only Nobel winners, Havel and Wiesel insisted there be no cookie-cutter criteria for participants, just a passion—and

proven record—of thinking big. Ordinary folks need not apply.

The Dalai Lama, the religious leader of Tibet, is expected, as is Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian ocean traveler of Kon-Tiki fame. Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and former South African President F.W. de Klerk have accepted invitations, as have authors Wole Soyinka of Nigeria and Crown Prince Hassan.

Cancer and AIDS researcher Claude Jasmin is listed, as is American television journalist Ted Koppel. The guest list, conspicuously

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## Eco-friendly project gets under way

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS have become literally burning issues for people and governments locally and globally, with efforts being made in every sector of society to protect our world before it's too late. From the international Earth Summit conference in Brazil 1992, to teenagers choosing to buy 'ozone friendly' products, proof of our growing environmental awareness is everywhere. The Middle East is no different.

The Jordanian government is taking major steps to make the country more 'eco-friendly', by launching a waste-to-fuel 'biogas' pilot project, with \$4 million in funding administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The biogas plant will dispose of organic waste initially just from a landfill site in Amman, to generate electricity.

Although the first of its kind in the Middle East, cost-effective biogas technology has been used for decades in most industrialized countries. Jordan is increasingly reliant on renewable energy sources and by investing in such technology, is reducing both the damage done to the atmosphere by greenhouse gases, and the extent to which it relies on imported fossil fuels.

Dr Iyad Abuomoghli, a senior officer for the government's environment programme, said "the scheme expects to become profitable within four years, and interim income from the first stages will be used to expand the programme throughout Jordan".

If successful, the technology will be adopted by countries throughout the Middle East. He also mentioned the awareness-raising campaign which, in conjunction with the Jordan Environmental Society, aims to promote the idea of recycling and waste separation amongst the general public. ■

## Britain prepares Saturday for Diana's 'unique funeral'

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was ferried to the old chapel in a gleaming black hearse at 12:10 am Monday. The chapel is next to St. James' Palace, once the residence of King Henry VIII, now the London headquarters of Prince Charles and still the statutory seat of government; ambassadors to Britain are accredited to the court of St. James.

As a concession to her own noble Spencer family and the royal Windsor family, which includes Diana's sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, the princess' family and the palace will believe that the funeral must involve the public. The prime minister thinks the outpouring of grief has been a reflection of the depth of affection and appreciation that people felt for Princess Diana and that the funeral should reflect that.

Though President Clinton said Monday he would not attend, a few world leaders may be present this weekend. The usual huge ambassadorial presence, the military overtones and the pomp and circumstance of a formal event of state will be largely conspicuous by their absence. Charles Spencer, the princess' brother, said "the family has wholeheartedly agreed that it would be appropriate for Diana to receive a public funeral. The family acknowledges that it is right and proper that the people of Britain have their chance to pay their respects."

William and Harry, with their father Prince Charles and their grandmother Queen Elizabeth, are thought likely to remain in seclusion at Balmoral Castle in Scotland until Saturday's ceremony. Details were still being worked out Monday. But Diana will be borne in solemn public procession Saturday morning past the great, visitor-familiar landmarks of British state and royalty: along the tree-lined Mall bordering St. James' Park, down Horse Guards Parade, along Whitehall and its ministries toward Parliament Square.

on a gun carriage," said David Williamson, co-editor of Deborah's Peerage. He said it would more resemble the 1979 funeral for Lord Louis Mountbatten than the 1965 state funeral of Winston Churchill.

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace observed: "The status is irrelevant. This is a unique funeral for a unique person." A spokesman at 10 Downing Street said Prime Minister Tony Blair, the princess' family and the palace "all believe that the funeral must involve the public. The prime minister thinks the outpouring of grief has been a reflection of the depth of affection and appreciation that people felt for Princess Diana and that the funeral should reflect that."

After the funeral, in keeping with the wishes of the Spencers, Diana will be buried in a private ceremony at the family estate of Althorp about 80 miles northwest of London. Twenty generations of the Spencer family lie there. "The body will be laid to rest with 500 years of Spencer ancestors including her father," Charles Spencer said. "This part of the day will be entirely private with only immediate members of Diana attending the burial conducted by a priest who is a family friend. Respect for the family's privacy at this stage is thought to be only just, in view of the public nature of the early part of the day."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



After school activity: More than 1.4 million pupils in the Kingdom started school earlier this week. There are more than 4,500 public, private and UNRWA schools around the country. Secretary of the Ministry of Education Dr Izat Jaradat said that more than 120,000 children started classes for the first time. There are about 70,000 teachers in the country.

## UNIFIL finds it serves many roles in Lebanon

By Ann LoLordo

ALMAN, Lebanon—Maj. Jari Piira looks out over a seemingly serene landscape of hills steeply rising from the banks of the meandering Litani River as hawks glide overhead. But this is the most active battlefield in

the Middle East, a setting for more than 20 years of ambushes, invasions and rocket duels. Piira, a Finnish paratrooper, watches the carnage between Israeli and Islamic militias as a member of a UN peacekeeping force, an "interim" peacekeeping arrangement now in its 19th discouraging year.

The UN Interim Force in Lebanon—or UNIFIL—arrived in 1978 with this mission: to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. A civil war involving Lebanese Christians and Muslims and the Palestine Liberation Organization was under way, with Israel supporting a Christian faction.

The war escalated when Israel decided that its problems in the south could only be solved if all of Lebanon were at peace. The Israeli army invaded in 1982—and found Lebanon its worst nightmare, a front that sapped military resources and morale. In 1985, Israel agreed to withdraw, but it established a buffer zone in the south. Israeli troops remain entrenched in that 9-mile-wide zone, locked in an intractable fight with Islamic guerrillas.

So far this year, 13 Israeli soldiers have died in South Lebanon. The death toll among Lebanese civilians is higher. Ten civilians were killed during the past week alone. The past week brought a larger than usual amount of violence: The Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army shelled the city of Sidon. Occupation resistance men responded by firing more than 75 rockets into northern Israel. Israel responded by launching rocket attacks of its own, as well as four air raids. Twenty-six people, mostly civilians, were killed in the spiraling confrontations. UNIFIL soldiers could only watch.

But the peacekeeping force has pursued another role—providing humanitarian aid to civilians. "It's not the work of soldiers, but only soldiers can do this (kind of) peacekeeping work," said Piira, who commands a battalion of Finnish peacekeepers. "There are difficult things going on here. We should not forget the people."

The peacekeeping force, identified by the United Nations' trademark blue berets, and white vehicles with prominent "UN" markings, includes about 4,500 soldiers from nine countries patrolling parts of the Israeli-controlled "security zone" and

the Lebanese-controlled territory immediately to its north. UNIFIL monitors activities of Israeli soldiers, their counterparts in the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army and the Islamic militias.

"South Lebanon is having some kind of a normal life because UNIFIL is here," said Lt. Col. Teemu Junttila, deputy commander of the Finnish battalion. The Finns have built a school in a village adjacent to their headquarters compound. They established health clinics in some villages, dug wells in others and send their doctors and nurses into the countryside. At UNIFIL checkpoints, civilian cars are checked for weapons. At UNIFIL observation towers, soldiers from Ireland, Norway, Ghana, Fiji, Nepal and Finland search for guerrillas trying to infiltrate the Israeli-controlled security zone, and monitor Israeli troops and their client militia.

Every morning, UNIFIL troops patrol in armored vehicles to make a visual sweep for mines and roadside bombs, which may be fashioned to look like rocks. They patrol villages on foot. While Piira's white UN jeep rode through a Lebanese village, children waved and shouted hello. "It's important to see how the children act," Piira said. "You know what the parents are thinking."

Earlier this year, a firefight between Israeli and Lebanese militiamen led to four deaths within sight of one of Piira's observation posts—one Israeli and three Lebanese. The Israelis managed to carry off their dead comrade. Piira's UN peacekeepers were asked to retrieve the three dead Lebanese. Piira led 10 of his men and a medical team into a valley nicknamed "the shooting wadi." They carried the blue UN flag and called out to the Israeli troops. "The answer was shooting," said Piira. "I got my first battle baptism."

The peacekeepers retreated, returned a few hours later and successfully carried out the dead.

During the past year, the Finnish troops recorded 112 incidents in which artillery or bomb blasts landed within 200 yards of their posts. "It's a dirty game," Capt. Joakim Peterson said. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## Aqaba waiters

Continued from page 1

third friend. The first man calls the waiter back over and says in a very pleasant manner, "Your orange juice is so good that my friend here would like one too." To this the waiter angrily replies: "Listen. Do you think I have been hired only to serve you and your friends?"

Grumpy waiters are synonymous with Aqaba hotels. Hoteliers say it is difficult to find professional waiters and add that they have to settle for whatever they can find. That sometimes means sloppy and rude service.

To this, a head-waiter at a major Aqaba hotel responds: "Jordanians are unlike foreign visitors such as the Swedes or the Danes. They yell at us and their children are demanding. We prefer to serve foreigners." He says that one of his men resigned because a client, a Jordanian, had yelled at him. Foreigners would never "do that," the head-waiter adds.

—But this is a faint reply to the

charge that most visitors to Aqaba now complain of bad service. You order a cold drink and it will most probably arrive half an hour later—warm!

You're a family of four and want four beach towels, but the unfriendly beach supervisor says you're only entitled to two. You argue and beg for the two extra towels. You order room service and it takes a reasonable amount of time to get what you want. You want something from housekeeping and it takes forever. The first costs you money, the second is free.

Perhaps one can sympathize with hoteliers after all. Trained local help is hard to find and keep. Business is never steady in Aqaba, and Jordanians do not show up unless there is a special offer. So what do you expect?

Training and administering staff is an ongoing business, and an investment in one's reputation. We want Aqaba to be renowned for something other than bad service with attitude. ■

## Palestine refugees fear agency's fate is sealed

Continued from page 1

solution," he said. "The big goal behind this is the transformation of UNRWA from an international agency into a regional one and an Arab one financed by Arab countries. This will make the issue of refugees an Arab issue not an international one."

UNRWA Commissioner-General Hansen has already visited some oil-rich Arab states to ask them to help cover the agency's deficit.

Palestinian refugees are the only people in the world who are excluded from international protection. The International

Refugee Convention, ratified in 1950, excluded Palestinian refugees from international protection. This convention stresses the refugees' right of return to their homeland or to settle in their host country if they do not wish to return.

Article 49 of UNRWA's mandate states that any assistance provided to refugees should not violate, in any way, article 11 of UN resolution no. 194 which underlines the right of return or compensation for Palestinian refugees. Currently, the fate of the Palestinian refugees is hanging in the air. ■

## Women hope to increase their presence

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"Election campaigns are financed by parties or tribes," Al Rashdan says. "We never see a tribe or a party naming a woman as its candidate." Bushnaq agrees that "it is hopeless for women to stand for elections while being unable to get social and financial support."

While women are busy preparing for elections, the boycott decision taken by the Islamists and other opposition parties has cast its shadow over women candidates.

The Islamist activist Al Faouri tells *The Star* "I am willing to stand for the elections, though it is still early to give a final decision on the matter." Faouri has reservations towards the IAF's decision to boycott the elections.

Al Rashdan says the one-man-one-vote electoral system minimizes women's opportunities to reach the Lower House. "We expected a quota for women before the elections, but this was not achieved."

She adds that after the November elections "if we find that the women's representation in the Lower House is not enough, then we shall call for a 'women's quota' as a temporary solution."

Referring to the Islamists' decision to boycott the elections, Al Rashdan says that democracy requires the participation of all political parties in the country. "We respect their decision and hope that they can reach a settlement in their dialogue with the government."

However, Fakhouri stresses that she supports the boycott decision of the opposition because she is not "satisfied with the government's policy in implementing democracy."

She says that the existence of the opposition inside the Lower House is useless. On the contrary, such existence is seen by Dr. Fakhouri as a means to enhance the government's goals.

As for women's participation in the coming elections, she expects three women to win. Bushnaq, who is expected to run for the elections in Zarka, says it is still too early to speak about her final decision in this regard, but she is enthusiastic and hopes that women can enhance their presence in Parliament.

Referring to the Islamists' decision to boycott the elections she says "participating in the elections is a national duty that we should all perform, but I do respect their decision."

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WHAT'S ON

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# JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

## Government mergers

Up to 400 employees could be affected by the merger of the Ministry of Supplies to that of Trade and Industry. The merger, which is expected to have taken place by the end of the year, is part of a major government haul at administrative rationalization. Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Hani Al Mulki, said that the merger will take place through a three-phase plan, the objective of which is to re-organize the ministries and cut down the number of their directorates. Minister of State for Information Affairs Dr Samir Mutaweh later said that the government has no intention of reducing jobs, and officials are currently studying plans either to relocate these employees or to look at early retirement schemes.

## Car accidents

When will car accidents end? Earlier this week an 18-year-old died and 12 people were injured when a bus collided with a pick-up in the Beni Kananah region in the north of the country. Those injured, whose ages range from four to 70 years, were all taken to hospital and were said to be in a stable condition with broken limbs, cuts and bruises. A Civil Defence report said that in just one day alone, last Sunday, 125 different types of accidents were registered throughout the Kingdom. This resulted in five deaths and 32 injuries.

## Electricity workers

Whatever happened to the demands of the electricity workers, you might say. Many people have probably forgotten about their demands last year, which led to a staging of demonstrations outside the Jordan Electricity Company. Apparently, they are still alive and kicking...the demands, I mean. The Electricity Workers Union and the management seem to have been meeting quietly to iron out their differences and come to a mutual agreement. It seems there could be light at the end of the tunnel at last. The management have agreed in principle, to make an allowance of JD 15 on top of the basic salary of electricity workers. They are still having their differences, but what's important is that negotiations are continuing and continuing...

## Election fever

It can now be safely said that the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm the Islamic Action Front, will not be participating in the November parliamentary elections, although a final decision has yet to be made. Even if negotiations do take place at this late stage, there won't be enough time to prepare for the elections, Islamists say. The government seems to be quite sanguine about the whole affair, saying that the elections are open to anyone, and it is not their role to force people to join in the electoral process. The whole party political system has been thrown off guard by the Islamists' boycott decision back in July. Although the National Constitutional Party has firmly made up its mind to run, the other parties are still holding, waiting, watching and observing. But they must make up their minds because the clock is ticking, and they would have to register their candidates very soon. Judging by the looks of things, the coming election is likely to be one of the most sedate in Jordan's political history. I suppose this could be a good thing, for anyone preferring the quiet life!

# Who needs an incentive to come to Jordan?

By Kerry O'Neill  
Star Staff Writer

"SMALL IS not beautiful any more," warned Mr Philippe Duclos of EUROMIC, a tourism industry consortium specializing in 'Incentive Tourism'. "Companies need to join forces and 'think Jordan' together," agreed Minister of Tourism Mr Akel Biltaji.

This was the message conveyed at last Monday's 'Incentive Tourism' conference held at the Forte Grand Hotel, Amman. Representatives from Belgium, France, Australia, the UK and the Middle East joined local firms such as Jordan's leading tour operator Dukkak Tours and members of the Ministry of Tourism, the Jordan Tourism Board and Royal Jordanian, to discuss tourism growth in the region.

Marketing Jordan as a destination for incentive tourism was the focus of the gathering, and around 100 tourism professionals were present. Separate from the typical package holiday industry, it refers to tours given by businesses abroad to their most valued employees: these sophisticated tours replacing or existing alongside cash bonuses, the 'carrot' traditionally used to motivate employees to greater achievements.

This kind of tourism is developing rapidly and, like corporate gimmicks, the tourists themselves are becoming more sophisticated, demanding higher standards of service and ever more creative holidays. "Jordan is on the map" said Mr Biltaji, and with skillful 'destination management', can be promoted as a versatile venue in the lucrative incentive travel market, being able to offer spiritual, ecological and cultural elements to even the shortest of trips.

Using examples taken from other countries, participants were shown how best to 'sell' Jordan abroad as a prime incentive destination. These trips aim to create a unique and exclusive feel, and to run perfectly smoothly, for incentive travellers are their company's elite. They spend more money per capita than any other type of tourist (as the trip itself was free to them), and should return home with positive impressions, creating more interest in

Jordan as an incentive 'resort' through word-of-mouth recommendations.

"Jordan, the product" can successfully be promoted as far afield as Japan and the USA, but usually only in combination with other countries in the region such as Egypt or Israel. To European markets, however, because of the accessibility of short, direct flights, its reputation for hospitality and a catalogue of other attributes, Jordan is described by Mr Elhamy Elzayat, Chairman of EUROMIC, as an ideal "stand-alone" destination.

Proving this point, Ms Amani Jarar, a representative of 'Husam Tours' established six years ago, says that in the past two years they have been concentrating on incentive accounts, working mainly with visitors from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Scandinavia. Speakers also noted that combining incentive travellers with business clients, enables professionals to meet in informal circumstances, forming joint ventures of benefit to all

parties and countries concerned.

The potential for future expansion in this field is self-evident, and this conference is long overdue.

Criticism from the floor, however, suggested that Jordan's infrastructure needs upgrading if not a 'total overhaul' before it can go ahead and expand in this specialized area. Tourists have difficulties locating simple facilities like payphones, and even important speakers who had flown into Jordan, noticed that "personnel such as airport staff rarely offer explanations when delays or problems arise." These major problems need to be addressed.

In Amsterdam, all major hotels have a central computer link-up and can communicate daily to "predict and cater for short and longer-term trends". And in Hamburg, Germany, taxi-drivers have information days where they are given current tourist-related information and timetables for up-coming

events, making them as helpful to the visitor as possible.

Judging by the heads nodding in agreement around the conference hall, professionals in Jordan's public and private tourism industries recognize the need to improve current infrastructure and communication channels, and seem prepared to make positive moves towards such improvements.

Jordan already has a very successful seasonal tourist industry, but to compete for prestigious and economically rewarding incentive travel accounts, often arranged during off-peak periods, will need to iron out the finer lines.

If the advice and recommendations made are adhered to and new contacts pool resources and together find ways to promote their country and attract custom, Jordan may be able to call itself a genuinely accessible, relaxing destination for the incentive tourists of the near future. For the moment however, that reality is still some distance away.



"Princess Diana was a unique person, and will be a great loss" said His Majesty King Hussein, after signing her book of condolences on Monday at the British Embassy, Amman. The King, speaking for Her Majesty Queen Noor and indeed all Jordanians, expressed everyone's grief and sadness for a woman who had "dedicated herself to humane causes", and said that "irresponsible journalism" needs to be stamped out, to avoid further tragedies.

## Press cocktail

Edited by Raed Al Abed

## Tribal politics in full view

This week columnist Basim Sakejha found himself in the middle of a political minefield, when he criticized the growing relationship between tribalism and politics in Jordan. Many politicians reached the Lower House of Parliament through tribal support.

Sakejha started his column in *Ad Dustour* last week by praising the tribes and said that "Such family bonds distinguish us [as a society] from others since they present a unique social coherence and safeguard the country against social rifts."

However, the writer warned against "the consequences of prejudice [tribalism] on politics which takes us backwards, and away from the future..."

He added that since the country is one and its interests are one, people should unite to choose their representatives to achieve an ideal result: to elect [a Lower House] legislator that would represent the country, and not just his tribe, town or neighborhood.

Sakejha saw a contradiction between attempting to build a civil society and chaining parliamentary representatives to the obligations dictated by the tribe or town. He added that despite talk about the future "or what politicians call a civil society, the tribal [practices that are going on] drag us tens of years back."

He wrote "it seems that there is an official trend, backed by influential personalities and gaining 'tribal' support, against those who adopt opposite views and look forward to a better future," which is attempting to "close the door against candidates who are capable of providing a public service."

The writer adds that we accepted the one-man-one-vote electoral system with bitterness, and were obliged to vote on such a basis hoping to change it, but that in the end we have reached the "single candidate stage"—a reference to the candidate of the tribe. As a consequence, he wrote, we hope we won't reach the period of unilateral thought characterized by a pro-government parliament, whose duty is only to promote the policies and decisions of the government.

One tribal candidate, Mr Abdel Hadi Al Majali, was not happy with Sakejha's arguments, since he was elected by the Al Majali tribe during its meeting last week in Karak as their candidate to the next Parliament.

Al Majali, who also heads the center-right National Constitutional Party (NCP), tried to defend his post as the sole candidate from his tribe and a candidate of the NCP in his district, Karak, in *Ad Dustour* on Tuesday.

He felt sorry for those who, by criticizing him for being a candidate of the tribe and the NCP, took the opportunity to hammer the Jordanian tribes, because they believe that the structure of tribes is an antiquated social form.

Al Majali said that tribes in Jordan are part of a big family: their members are citizens who belong to this country. Their wish to carry their sons to parliament does not contradict with the objective of building a civil and a democratic society. The head of the National Constitutional Party added that the tribe is not against organizing its members into political parties or civic institutions.

But he went further: "The tribe is the real framework of the majority of Jordanians." Al Majali said that tribes have a social role to play, with members active in all fields of life. "Tribes are not political parties, but are based on a humanitarian and social desire to carry their sons and daughters to participate in the political and social fields of the state including political parties, to achieve their social goal."

Mr Majali said that tribes have their own councils, refuting claims that the government is behind reorganizing the tribes. "Tribes aren't political parties and have no relation with governments."

## Big thinkers to discuss big topics at Millennium Confab

Continued from page 1

tional Center for Scholars—but not among the Forum 2000 participants.

The three-day conference already has its share of no-shows. Microsoft boss Bill Gates has sent regrets, as have Mother Theresa, South African President Nelson Mandela, Russian author Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, American writer Toni Morrison and former US Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Italian scholar Umberto Eco, an early yes, dropped out last week. Organizers last fall invited more than 100 "prominent personalities," as Havel has characterized the guest list, for the once-in-a-millennium opportunity, but were unable to avoid prior commitments for about half of them.

"We've learned that some people have their schedules blocked two years in advance," said David Benar of the Bohemian Foundation, one of several nonprofit sponsors of the conference. But if all goes well, there may be other opportunities, even during this millennium.

Although nothing has been decided, Havel and Wiesel are hopeful participants will agree to a series of gatherings over the next two years.

Organizers said they will be satisfied if this week's conference adjourns with a general consensus about the main issues—ethical, ideological and religious—confronting mankind, with specific prescriptions for the next millennium scheduled for later sessions. "This distinguished gathering is meant to be an opportunity to probe both our conscience and our memory," Wiesel wrote to the invitees.

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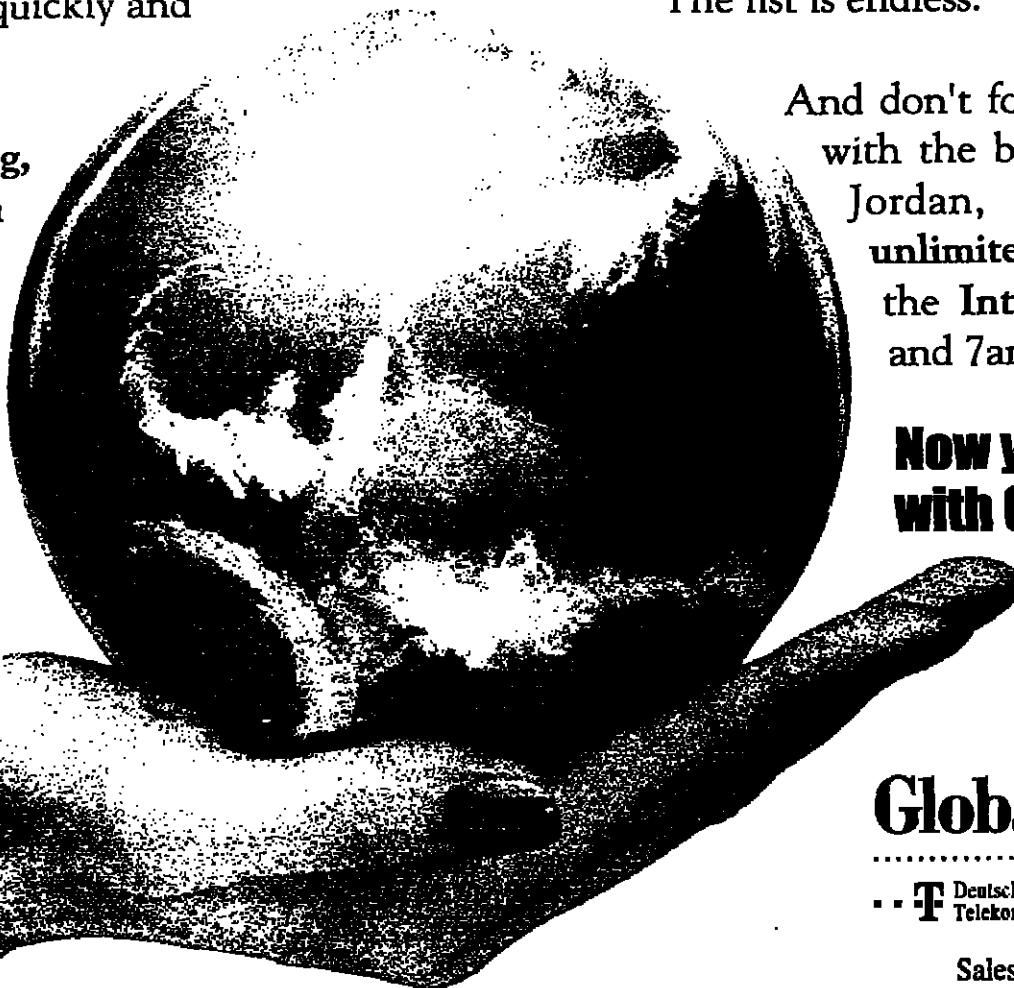
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(News Item: North Korea's Ambassador to Egypt and his brother - also a diplomat - have arrived in the U.S. seeking asylum. They are the latest in an increasing stream of political, military and civilian defectors from North Korea.)

## Our Say...

### Albright's upcoming visit

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has condemned the upcoming visit by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to failure, unless the Palestinians commit, in his words, to fighting terrorism. Ms Albright's visit, the first to the region since she assumed her position earlier this year, will most likely determine whether the Middle East still has a peace process or not.

It is clear that while the onus of US pressure still rests on the shoulders of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the Palestinians have reached a point where they have nothing more to offer, except their heads on a silver platter. That will suit Netanyahu fine, because it is now clear that Israel is not interested in the original Oslo accords and would like to renegotiate the whole agreement from scratch. The Likud-led government was never interested in pursuing its obligations under the agreements that its predecessor had signed with the Palestinian Authority. In fact, the Israeli premier now suggests that the time has come to throw away the interim arrangements and force upon the hapless Palestinians a new plan under a final settlement agreement.

So is this what Ms Albright intends to pursue while in the region? A fait accompli settlement forced by Netanyahu on the PNA simply means the burial of the land-for-peace formula and the consecration of Israel's occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories.

Surely, the policies of the Netanyahu government since last year all point to such an objective; from the fattening and expansion of Jewish settlements to the constant postponement of redeployment agreements; and from the collective punishment of the Palestinian people to the ethnic cleansing of Arabs in East Jerusalem. The total sum of these policies points to one result, sealing the fate of the land by stripping it from its Arab owners and leaving the Palestinians trapped and isolated in their cities and villages.

It is clear that the United States has forfeited its role as a mediator between the two sides and is now being seen as part of the Netanyahu camp. Washington has done little in recent weeks to alleviate the barbaric siege of Palestinian territories and does not appear ready to bring pressure to bear on Israel to honor its commitments under previous agreements.

With the agreements suspended and done with, what will Ms Albright talk about during her visit to the region? We believe that US involvement in the Middle East peace process has changed dramatically since the days of Madrid, and that it today clearly lacks the credibility that brought about hope for a fair settlement of the Palestinian problem.

With this in mind, any talk of pushing the parties into final status negotiations now carries within it the seeds of a conspiracy to strip the Palestinians of their legal and inalienable rights. The Palestinian leadership should work on solidifying its ranks and opening bridges of dialogue with its own people at this dangerous juncture. Netanyahu cannot be trusted and Ms Albright should hear this from the Palestinians. ■

## Letters to the Editor

### Mansaf rules, ok!

To The Editor,  
I read your article "Mansaf Politics" (The Star, 21 August) with fascination. Democratic process came a long way in our country under the auspice of His Majesty King Hussein.

Your article ought to be titled as we say "Feed the mouth, shut the eyes", would have been more fitting.

A question always on my mind, and only will be answered in the future, whether the proud Jordanians will look beyond what is presented at the Mansaf and digest what is served at the Platform. I thank you.

LL Jabbour, M.D. Middlebury, CT.  
06762 USA, ljabbour@aol.com

### A job well done

To The Editor,  
Congratulations to the Star for going online. I have just been reading this weeks issue and was extremely pleased at the form and contents. I am happy to have this link with Jordan.  
Best wishes to all who worked to make this happen.

Joyce Niles  
Medmaam@aol.com



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## Notes from the Levant

# Is Zionism dead?

By Osama El-Sherif

ISRAEL CELEBRATED the 100th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress, which was held in Basel, Switzerland, on 29 August 1997, without much fanfare. Neither the President of Israel nor its Prime Minister attended the centennial celebrations held in Basel last month to mark the occasion. In fact, it was noted, even by Israeli observers, that the Jewish media machine did not make ample propaganda use of the event.

This, after all, was the mother of all Zionist events. It was in Basel 100 years ago that the Jewish journalist Theodore Herzl declared that the Jewish state was founded and that "in five years, and certainly 50, everyone will know it is true."

Herzl's prophecy took some 50 years to come true. By sad twists of fate, imperial shady alliances and conspiracies, Israel was founded in Palestine in 1948. For about a century, Zionism and all that it stood for, constituted the rallying point for the majority of world Jewry.

But today, Israeli thinkers are looking back and some have declared solemnly that Zionism is dead. They say the driving force of the Zionist movement has subsided and that the ideological bedrock which Herzl has endeavored has long gone with the demise of the "Jewish age of aliyah" or Jewish migration to the land of Israel. They say that nothing remains of the romantic spirit of pioneering kibbutzim, except the label.

Israel today is a society that is divided between those who still believe in Herzl's original vision and those who are a product of this vision—younger generations, born in Israel and whose view of their country differs from that of their forefathers. As one Israeli writer said recently: "Zionism became the rare utopian movement which rendered itself irrelevant not by failing dramatically, but succeeding spectacularly."

For the Arabs, the Zionist movement and what it created has become a central part of their modern history. As we prepare to enter the 21st century, we are still trying to come to grips with the bitter fruit of this movement: the usurpation of Palestine, the successive military defeats and the peace process that none of us consider as fair or just.

Understanding Zionism and how it "succeeded" remains a controversial issue for the majority of the Arabs. True, it is an anathema, an evil and dubious ideology that has caused us many tragedies and humiliations. One hundred years later, Zionism remains the encapsulation of the causes of our defeat and the failure of the Arab national order to take off successfully.

One cannot judge the Arabs of the 20th century without linking such judgment to the dubious influence of Zionism and its colonization of Palestine.

May be it is time—as Israelis begin to reconsider the Zionist project, not in terms of its objectives, but in terms of its influence over their daily lives—that we as Arabs begin to understand how Zionism was

**Herzl's prophecy took some 50 years to come true. By sad twists of fate, imperial shady alliances and conspiracies, Israel was founded in Palestine in 1948**



Herzl

able to evolve over the past 100 years. May be it is time that we understood the forces that shape our enemy's way of thinking and try to come up with new ways to confront that enemy.

If Zionism is dead, as some Israelis claim, then where does this leave Israel—its abominable offspring? What is the legacy of Zionism 100 years after the Basel congress?

Understanding this transition and the new paradigm that is allegedly being formed in Israel should help us understand how Israel sees itself and the region around it.

If we believe that our struggle against Israel is historic in nature, then understanding history in light of the new ideological developments in Israel becomes essential if we are ever to develop our own ideological answer to the challenge of 100 years of Zionism. ■

# Massacre in Algeria increases crisis

By a Star Staff Writer and combined agencies.

WITH THE massacre of innocent civilians in Algeria last week, the international community is bracing itself for more violence in Algeria.

With the slaughter of more than 300 Algerian civilians, the bloodiest single episode in five years of civil warfare between Islamic insurgents and the army-backed government, the violence is taking on an uglier twist.

Massacres in three villages south of the capital, Algiers, said that rampaging guerrillas decapitated many of their victims and perched their heads on walls and doorsteps as a mute warning to the survivors. Even a photographer with the Agence France-Presse news service reported seeing stacks of burned bodies the morning following the massacre.

Some analysts are saying the government must now start real negotiations with the country's factions in the hope of ending the spiral of violence.

But if the violence doesn't end there are those who are saying that an international solution must be found. But this is likely to fall on deaf ears for the time being because of the implications of international law and state sovereignty.

The government, who acknowledged that 98 people had been killed and 120 others wounded in attacks on villages in Blida province, vowed to "struggle without mercy against the barbarous criminals until their eradication." However, villagers and hospital workers have said that the number of deaths was much higher.

The situation has been looking bleak for sometime. It was thought that the parliamentary elections of 5 June would put an end to the conflict and make the process of reconciliation that much easier.

But these hopes are now dashed. The killings followed a surge in terrorist attacks—roadside and market bombings, roadside executions, random throat-slittings—in Algeria this month. Estimates of the summer's death toll, never precise in the climate of fear and government secrecy that prevails there, have been put at more than 1,500, with Thursday's attacks bringing the death toll for the past week alone to at least 400.

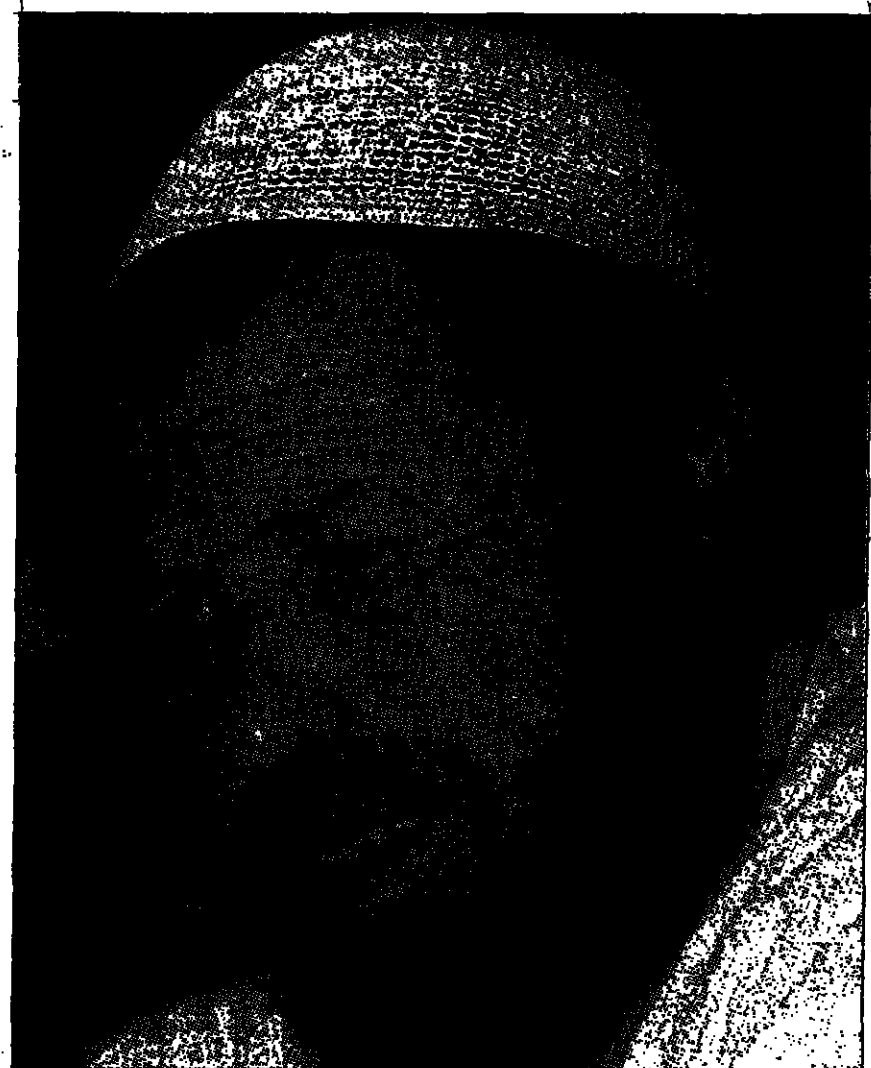
Women and children are frequently among the victims, often found disemboweled or decapitated or both. Abductions of young women are also common.

President Liamine Zeroual, a former general backed by Algeria's military, had been very hopeful that a final solution could be reached. Only 10 days ago he declared on state television that "terrorism is living its last hours in Algeria."

Algeria watchers are now saying that this was too simplistic. The situation again looks as if it is reaching disparate proportions.

Human rights groups and other informed observers say that as many as 100,000 civilians may have been slain since the insurrection began in 1992 after the government canceled elections that would have brought the Islamic Salvation Front, a now banned political bloc, to power in the North African country of 30 million.

The government presumes that an outlawed militant organization called the Armed Islamic Group is responsible for deadly attacks on civilians in Algiers and outlying communities, but analysts say that some of the killings could be the



Former leader of the Islamic Salvation Front Abbasi Madani is put under house arrest by the authorities which are threatening to send him back to jail. Mr Madani was freed on 15 July after spending six years in prison.

work of government security forces or government-armed militia groups carrying out reprisals against villages in which the guerrillas hide out.

The latest wave of massacres followed a brief period of respite and faint hope after generally peaceful legislative elections. Zeroual's party carried the elections, but moderate opponents of the regime also were elected.

In July, two senior leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front were released from jail as an apparent gesture to government opponents who wish to pursue a peaceful path to reconciliation. As part of its effort to rejoin the political process, the Salvation Front has also sought to repudiate the anti-civilian violence of the Armed Islamic Group, with which it once had close ties.

Benjamin Stora, a University of Paris professor who has written 17 books on his native Algeria, said in an interview that the nature of the violence there had changed in the past year. The Algerian government, he charged, has "privatized" the war by creating a "peasant militia" of 150,000 armed citizens who carry out many of the attacks on civilians that authorities invariably blame on the Armed Islamic Group and other militants. The civil war, he said, now pits "village against village, family against family."

Stora said also that the Algerian military is divided between hard-liners who want no truck with moderate elements of the Islamic Salvation Front and those

who see no alternative to including them in negotiations to end the violence. President Zeroual, he said, "is trying to situate himself in the middle of this battle" inside the military.

The Algerian government's continuing assurances that it has turned the tide on the insurgency have continued to be persuasive to France, the former colonial power until 1962 and home to more than a million Algerian immigrants, as well as 1.5 million citizens of Algerian heritage.

Despite the intermittent spillover of Algerian violence into French society—bombings in Paris in 1995 and 1996 and the killing of seven French monks in Algeria last year—France maintains a public posture of support for the Zeroual government. Although Prime Minister Lionel Jospin criticized France's "blind support" of the Algerian regime before his victorious political campaign here last spring, his foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, took a conciliatory line in a newspaper interview published in last Thursday.

Vedrine cited approvingly the "living reality" of a new Algerian multi-party legislature elected in June and brushed off a suggestion that the vote may have been rigged. "In any case," the foreign minister added, "it's up to the Algerians to find the solutions to their problems among themselves."

In the next few days and weeks tough decisions will have to be made on the part of the Algerian government if it is to stem the spiral of violence. ■

## Middle East Beat

by Khairi Jambek

### Bleeding Algeria

Between the daily bloodshed, and the promises of the Algerian president to end violence, one wonders what is actually going on in this fellow Arab and Islamic country. There is massacre after massacre, and every day we discover yet another orgy of killing that surpasses the preceding crimes in its depravity. Islamist groups, sectarian groups and execution brigades are all part of this enigmatic phenomenon, and Algerians are being sacrificed for its glory.

No one knows the reasons for targeting the villages in which such crimes are committed, nor the identity of the perpetrators. It is easy to lay blame according to the drift of events, but without definite knowledge, it is not easy isolating this phenomenon. Undoubtedly, many will say that death is the same regardless of the murder. However, the way in which these massacres are committed adds to the savagery of the crime on an international scale.

Unfortunately we have got used to these Algerian murders, and their death toll is becoming a mere statistic, but what attracts the interest of the media is the way in which such crimes are committed—the slaughter and decapitation of the victims. But the ugly details of the crimes indicate the attitude of the perpetrators toward the Algerian people and government. This method of slaughter was practiced during the Algerian War of Independence, where French colonialist troops were shot with bullets, the *Harakis*, or the French controlled Algerian collaborationists were massacred in such methods in order to instill fear in the hearts of other potential collaborators.

Therefore, anyone who dares to cooperate with the central government is likely to be targeted in such a barbaric method. But is the Algerian government a colonialist one? And is the ruling FLN an alien entity now? In emphatic terms, there is no justification for either bullets or knives.

There are many dimensions to the Algerian crisis: Arab, Islamic, and European. The most apparent has been the European dimension, especially the efforts of France to deflect violence from its border across the Mediterranean, avoiding the Algerian conflict being played out on its streets.

Also, it is important for France to control the radicalization of its Muslim population, especially considering the terrorist attacks that have taken place on its soil. Pre-emptive actions and concern about Muslim radicalization have forced the French to activate diplomatic moves in Algeria.

But Algeria is an Arab and Muslim country. However, the Arab and Islamic response has been muted to the extent that everyone there seems happy to lay the responsibility on Europe to contain the problem, rather than giving themselves the chance to at least voice an opinion.

Many Algerians, as Muslims, expect to hear some kind of authoritative Islamic response to the endless killings of the innocent. We know the compassionate and forgiving nature of our faith, yet all delude ourselves with the false comfort that the international community doesn't blame Islam for current events in Algeria. Unfortunately, however, many in the international community view it as just that. On the Arab dimension, we have not fared any better.

The rate the death toll in the Algerian conflict is rising, will soon overtake the deaths in the Arab-Israeli conflict or even the Lebanese civil war. Will there be an Arab gathering to solve an Arab crisis? or will we seek the response from abroad? ■



EMBER 1997  
Middle East Beat  
by  
hairi Janbela  
Bleeding  
Algeria

Business scene

■ Sales of the Union Chemical and Vegetable Oil Industries reached nearly JD 3.4 million in the first half of this year. This figure topped the sales for 1996.

The company already made profits of nearly JD342,000. It announced earlier that it recently acquired a contract to export more than 7000 tons of vegetable oil to Iraq at a value of more than JD 6 million.

The company has also finished a plan to market its paint products to be able to expand its export sales.

Its budget till last June was nearly JD 10.1 million compared with JD 8.9 million at the end of last year.

The company's fixed assets are estimated at JD 5.24 million.

The Union Chemical and Vegetable Oil Industries was established in 1993. The goal of this company is to produce vegetable oil from seeds and fodder.

■ National Aluminium Industries Co., made a net profit of nearly JD 116,500 for the first half of this year. Figures show that the sales reached JD 1.59 million. The company is looking to increase production, at the same time improving the quality of its products to comply with international standards.

National Aluminium owns a factory which makes aluminium, and forms it into different shapes.

It has also achieved an operational profit of nearly JD 240,000.

The budget of the company reached nearly JD 12 million last June.

■ The agreement on the Aqaba/Eilat "Airport of Peace" was signed between Jordanian and Israeli officials this week. Both sides launched "experimental operations" which come within the context of the transport pact, annexed to the peace treaty agreement between the two countries. The operational stage is starting at Aqaba Airport, which will later be transformed into a joint Jordanian/Israeli venture.

Because the Airport is Jordanian and therefore subject to Jordanian legislation, Israeli officials have to ask for the approval of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority before they can organize any flights.

# Jordanian free markets, a new concept in duty free shopping

By Ilham Sadeq  
Star Staff Writer

AS JORDAN moves towards developing its tourism sector, many investors are avidly willing to offer their top quality services to both local and foreign visitors. Being convinced by the encouraging investment climate in the country, these investors are not hesitating to turn to the tourism sector as a stable part of the economy.

With a registered capital of JD 5 million, the Jordanian Duty Free company (JDF) was declared last December. Public sector contribution in the capital stands at 60 percent, while the remaining 40 percent is covered by private investors.

The main objective behind the creation of the new company is to open free market (duty free shops) at the land crossing points in the north and south of the country. This is besides other shops to be opened in the Aqaba port and Amman. By the end of this year the JDF is planning to open other centers on the Jaber Border, the Jordan Valley Bridge, King Hussein Bridge, Wadi Araba Crossing Border, and at Al Karameh.

"We are keen to provide top quality service for visitors and passengers crossing the Jordanian borders through our exquisite selection of products at affordable prices," JDF's director Mr. Haitham Al Majali tells *The Star*.

These products are free from customs and the JDF could provide a crucial source of badly needed hard currency. Such shops help to promote tourism in Jordan because tourists can find everything they need in one place. Among the products available for passengers coming in and out of Jordan are top quality brand names of leather goods and luggage, cosmetics and perfumes, electronics, high technology luxury goods, watches and lighters.

Visitors will also enjoy shopping at the JDF's corner

for confectionery. Its candy is supplemented by the tastes and flavours of traditional Arab sweets cuisine. On display are candies to satisfy shoppers of all ages and tastes.

Tourists will also find fascinating souvenirs and beautiful handicrafts that show Jordan's cultural and artistic heritage. "We are planning to reinforce our cooperation with charity and handicraft societies (such as the Noor Al Hussein Foundation) in order to enrich our selection of products," Al-Majali said.

Referring to the duty free shops organized by the JDF, he adds that the first Amman City Terminal building at the 7th Circle is now fully equipped and ready to open its doors for clients this Sunday. "It is being inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal", Al-Majali said.

This center will be restricted to foreign and non-resident Arabs and foreign diplomats or visitors.

The JDF director stressed that there is high level cooperation and co-ordination between his company and the Customs Dept. Both are keen to make such a project a great success, he added.

Other related measures involve running and arranging the duty free shops which are related to the Land and Survey Dept., regarding leasing sites. But this is not the case with the JDF's allocation site in Aqaba that is made in cooperation with the Aqaba Regional Authority.

Al Majali is optimistic about the investment climate in Jordan. Hopefully, he said, there will be a distinctive trade center in Aqaba, following the



Al Majali

government efforts to enhance investment and remove obstacles that hinder any increase in the size of Arab and foreign investments.

This will of course be boosted by the political stability in Jordan and the region, he adds. "We have to be hopeful that things will get better in the future and I disagree with those investors who keep on complaining about setbacks," Al Majali says. He continues, "Jordan, due to its strategic location, is sensitive to the surrounding political developments that influence economic prosperity, and we have to accept such a reality. I am sure that the area will soon see a noticeable hype in many sectors including trade, industry and tourism."

JDF's founders include the Jordan Investment Est., Royal Jordanian, the Free Zones Corp., JEDCO, Aqaba Development and Marine Services Co., and the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank. ■

## Business Chronicle

### Eliminating poverty

POVERTY REMAINS at the center of official concern in Jordan and, now and then, the importance of embarking on a strategy to eliminate it is stressed. Such a strategy should be based on evaluating former plans and making use of other countries' experiences in this regard, bearing in mind the economic reform policy implemented in the Kingdom, according to Minister of Social Development, Dr. Mohammed Khair Mamsar.

Dr. Mamsar says that alleviating poverty requires a massive national and popular effort to develop human resources, improve infrastructure in rural areas and develop social projects.

The poverty ratio in 1989, Mamsar says, was 1.5% (subject poverty) and 17.8% (absolute poverty). However in 1992, this ratio went up to 6.6% and 21.3% respectively. According to estimates provided by a special committee to draw up a social security package, the subject poverty averaged at 8.9% or 9%, with absolute poverty at 21.8%.

The subject poverty line is measured by the income needed per capita to meet basic foodstuffs. This means that those people who can't even afford to satisfy such basic needs are listed in the subject poverty category.

Dr. Mamsar classifies the poor as comprising families below the subject poverty line, such as the old, disabled or young. This also includes people who can work but are jobless, orphans, widows, juveniles, prisoners, adults who are in need of rehabilitation or training and homeless children. Mamsar says that reasons for the growth of poverty must be related to the rise of population, unfair income distribution, decline in gross national product per capita and low productivity of workers. Added to these, he continues, is the unemployment level and the insufficient social aid programs.

Poverty elimination requires aid programs through financial subsidy to poor families on a monthly basis.

There are about 50,000 families (whose members are unable to work) benefiting from the National Aid Fund, Zakat Fund and other charitable societies, Mamsar says. This fund also offers loans at facilitated conditions (no interest) for those who are able to work. There are 6500 beneficiaries from this fund.

871 disabled people are given monthly assistance from the fund, in addition to training and rehabilitation programs organized by institutions of the Ministry of Social Development, Queen Alia Fund, the Ministries of Education and Health and the Royal Medical Services.

About 20,000 disabled people benefit from these. The issue of poverty has taken an international dimension as the UN called for a worldwide conference for Social Development in 1995 to face three challenges: the rise of the poor in the world, the need to increase job opportunities worldwide and to redress weak social co-operation. The participants came up with recommendations to create a social, political, economic, legal and cultural climate to enable the nations to achieve social development. They also called for decisive measures on regional and universal levels to enhance better and fairer distribution of jobs, in addition to increasing attractions for social development plans and rehabilitation programs on regional and worldwide aspects. ■



Mamsar

## New hotels in region under brand name soon

HOWARD JOHNSON International welcomed Mr. Amine E. Moukazel, to discuss his development plans for Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

Mr. Moukazel is the managing director of Falcon Franchising and Management, the company that holds the master franchising rights for Howard Johnson in those countries.

Mr. Moukazel met with senior Howard Johnson executive, including Mr. Stephen Phillips, the brand's president. The talks centered around on how the brand operates and how its systems work.

Mr. Moukazel provided his vision for the three country region. As a master franchisor for Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, Falcon Franchising and Management is building upon a solid foundation in its Hotel Development and Franchising in these countries.

The company is complementing HFS strategy by maintaining the traditional positive image of the Howard Johnson name and in developing hotels in the

mid-market segment and in the upper-middle market representing the best value for both leisure and business travelers. The aim is to develop hotels, express inns, suites and plazas with a strategic plan to develop five hotels in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan in the next three years.

The company is focusing on new development and the conversion of existing non-flagged properties to full service Howard Johnson Hotels and Plazas in Beirut, Damascus and Amman and in key destinations outside the capitals. The company is ready for the future, having an exceptional value for hotel owners to become Franchisees of Howard Johnson—a brand with a bright future.

Mr. Moukazel's visit familiarized him with various systems and functions which he will be able to apply to his region. The areas covered include: Design and Development, Purchasing, Marketing, Training, Quality Assurance and Reservation Systems. ■



## Japan to fund Suez Canal bridge

By Mark Huband

JAPAN HAS agreed to provide \$100m in grant aid for the construction of a \$160m bridge across the Suez canal in spite of uncertainty over the Middle East peace process and the region's future economic integration.

The 2.4 mile suspension bridge will be 49.5 metres high to allow the tallest of ships to continue using the canal. A total of 1,262 ships used the canal in May, earning the Egyptian government \$162m in fees, according to official figures. The Egyptian government will provide the remaining \$60m for the bridge project.

"Japan agreed to extend this money when things were going well in terms of the [Oslo] peace agreement," said Mitsuo Sabaka, chargé d'affaires at the Japanese embassy in Cairo, yesterday. "We expected that the bridge could contribute to the exchange of people and goods in the region. So one important consideration with regard

to this bridge project was as a part of our support for peace in the region. But then Netanyahu came along, and unfortunately the process is at a stalemate," he said, referring to the Israeli prime minister, who is visiting Japan.

Construction of the four-lane bridge will begin next year and take 42 months at a site 29 miles south of Port Said. Japanese finance will be used to build the main middle section and part of the approaches, for which Japanese companies will be contracted. Two Egyptian public sector companies have also been awarded contracts to assist in construction of the approaches.

The project is part of the Egyptian government's long-term strategy to develop industry and relocate population to the northern Sinai desert. The strategy is based on estimates of 3.2m people living in the northern Sinai by 2017. A 1986 census, the most recent available, revealed that only 171,500 people live in the area.

Estimates for increased cross-canal traffic in the next 25 years anticipate a tripling in capacity to around 60,000 vehicles per day. At present North Sinai is served by ferries, while roads to the south pass through the Ahmed Hamdi tunnel north of Suez.

Egypt asked for Japanese assistance for the project in 1995, during a visit by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak to Japan. Japanese technical experts were doubtful about the viability of Egyptian plans to establish industry and develop mineral resources in the North Sinai, but looked favourably at plans to irrigate 400,000 acres of land for agriculture.

"Our experts were not convinced 100 per cent about all the aspects of the [Egyptian government's] Sinai project," Mr. Sabaka admitted. But he stressed that hopes of future regional economic integration convinced Japan of the need for the bridge. ■

Financial Times Syndication

Foreign Exchange		
Wednesday, 3 September		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFR	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEL	0.3667	0.3685
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

## MARKET WATCH 30 August - 2 September

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑	5.00	↑	5.05	↑	5.09	↑	5.45
↓	4.49	↓	3.81	↓	4.69	↓	5.45
↑	4.04	↓	2.12	↓	3.57	↓	4.23
Car Uva		Arab Detergents		Mineral Hana		Intermediate Industries	
Commercial Industry		United Cigars		Al Badi Pharm.		United Cigars	
Chemical Industry Union		Jordan Investment Bank		Car Owner Union		United Development	
Arab Ceramics		Jordan Gulf Bank		Universal Chemical Industry		Arab Hach	
United Engineering		Amman Cement Bank		Arab Engineering Industry		Financial Factories	
Arab Metal Pipe Industry		Jordan Financial Investment		National Aluminium Industry		Arab Medical Supplies	
↑	5.08	↓	3.75	↓	3.18	↓	5.00
↓	3.13	↓	3.83	↓	2.00	↓	2.50
↓	2.51	↓	3.39	↓	1.49	↓	2.00
General Price Index		165,280		164,740		167,590	
Trade Volume		6041288		775145		2885810	
Stock Volume		2291270		394101		540477	
Highest Traded Stocks		3454257		304900		2221070	
↓ Kuwait Bank		↑ Arab Bank		↑ Arab Bank		↑ Arab Bank	

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# Aura of the ordinary along with royalty surrounded Diana

By Dean E. Murphy and Carla Hall

LONDON— "A perfect woman, nobly planned, to warn, to comfort and command, and yet a spirit still, and bright, with something of an angelic light. Rest in peace, dear lady." So read the handwritten note—quoting a William Wordsworth poem—tacked to the gate of Kensington Palace, home of Diana, the princess of Wales.

The fairy-tale princess is dead, and her realm—from the docks of East London to the dhow of East Africa—is ripped by a grief only the world's most ordinary of extraordinary people could evoke.

For all her glamor, good looks and royal credentials, it was the aura of Diana the Ordinary—vulnerable, demure and exceptionally unassuming amid the pomp and circumstance—that separated her from the family Windsor and so endeared her around the globe.

"She was a wonderful and warm human being," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair. "She was the people's princess."

From working-class Britons to Americans who watched the passing royal show with hungry interest, Diana's death seems to have touched some chord. "Everyone I've spoken to today has been up all night," said Lynda Resnick, the co-owner of the Franklin Mint, which spent \$150,000 to buy one of Diana's evening dresses at the highly publicized charity auction of her clothing at Christie's in New York two months ago. "I didn't sleep at all. I was so tormented by the senselessness of this."

In Los Angeles, in front of the British Consulate, people left flowers and candles and a woman sat softly crying.

Certainly the violence and untimeliness of her death have something to do with the depth of worldwide reaction, but the extent of the sadness and the public expectation of an official funeral in Britain—no matter what the protocol is—only confirm the global appeal Diana commanded during her roughly 17 years on the public stage.

In an era of cynicism, Diana seemed to cast a spell on all: the flower-wielding well-wishers who waited behind barricades, the ill and infirm she visited in hospitals, the high and mighty who supped with her. Museum directors and fashion editors went giddy in her presence. Phil Donahue turned pink with

pride when he danced with her at a Chicago event last year. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger beamed as he dined alongside her at a formal event a year or so ago.

Outside the gilded gates to her palace Sunday, as thousands of mourners from Britain and abroad laid flowers 4 feet deep, the softly spoken and often teary tributes were directed at Diana the loving mother, Diana the "queen of hearts," Diana the goodwill ambassador and Diana the forsaken wife.

No one spoke of Diana the almost-queen.

"She was just a normal person, unlike anyone else in the royal family," said Mary Poole, 60, a retired railroad worker from East London. "No matter who you were, she shook your hand without a glove."

Possessing an unremarkable education, wealthy by birth, Diana would probably have lead a comfortably anonymous life had she not married Charles, the prince of Wales. But Diana turned out to be everything the stuffy British royal family was not—warm, genial, engaging, unpretentious and beautifully dressed.

The public had seen her in the last few years as a humanitarian, traveling the world, making passionate and pointed speeches—too pointed, some British politicians had recently said. They may have forgotten that during the first years of her marriage, she barely uttered a public word, too shy and nervous to make public speeches.

It didn't matter. Her smile seemed genuine, her small talk sincere, her complexion English rose. Crowds who waited for the royal couple's public appearances hoped Diana, not Charles, would work their side of the barricade.

"She was a commoner even though she wasn't a commoner," said Rodney Drake, 54, a cab driver at London's Heathrow Airport who took upon himself the grim task of informing passengers of the princess's death as they drifted from the terminal. "She brought glamour, and life and down-to-earthness to the royal family."

David Cannadine, a professor of history at Columbia University who has written about 19th and 20th century Britain, speculates that it was Diana's embodiment of several images at once that made her so appealing.

"She was the postmodern multiple-

identities icon," Cannadine said. "Ingenu, devoted wife, thwarted wife, international sex symbol, international charity worker. And not just one to another in a single progression. One day, she's romping on a yacht, the next day she's doing work on land mines in Bosnia. Whether these images were really her or our imagination, I don't know. She was Mother Teresa one day and Marilyn Monroe the next. And it was irresistible to some."

For American society, which, lacking a royal family, elevates Hollywood celebrities and a few politicians to that status, Diana seemed a melding of both—the credentials of a princess and the looks and charisma of a movie star.

It only helped her public standing everywhere that she appeared to be a devoted modern mother, not a princess who delegated her children to a staff of nannies (of which she had plenty).

She came in for some harsh criticism toward the end of her marriage. At one point, she was described as a "loose cannon" by British authorities. At a particularly low moment, her husband's friends indicated she was mentally disturbed and should be institutionalized. And since her 1992 separation from her husband, she had sometimes seemed more a neurotic young woman with poor taste in men than a gleaming icon. She reportedly became too fond of a married rugby star at one point. She reportedly telephoned another man incessantly during one lonely period in her life.

Despite ups and downs in her public ratings, however, on balance, her vulnerability only won her greater admiration.

"Two things stand like stone," a young Princess Diana said prophetically in a speech in the 1980s. "Kindness in another's trouble; courage in your own."

In a frank television interview in 1995, when she acknowledged for the first time many of her own failings, Diana said:



"The British people need someone in public life to give affection, to make them feel important, to support them, to give them light in their dark tunnels.... Yes, I have had difficulties, as everybody has witnessed over the years, but let's now use the knowledge that I have gathered to help other people in distress."

Cannadine, the Columbia history professor, argues that in the last month or so in Britain, people may not have been so favorably disposed to her as she engaged in a relationship with Dodi Fayed.

"People were beginning to sell shares in Diana and buy shares in Charles. She seemed to be kind of losing it. She seemed to find happiness with Dodi, but this wasn't an altogether seemly way for the mother of the future (king) to behave," Cannadine said. But now, "that's stopped."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## A rebel with a cause

By Patt Morrison

WHEN THE British Broadcasting Corp. announced to viewers that the Princess of Wales had died in a car crash early Sunday, it did so to the image of the Union Jack waving at half-staff and the strains of "God Save the Queen."

And indeed, to some extent, Diana may in death serve her country and the monarchy at least as well as she did in life, and perhaps better—an irony, considering how much she came to loathe both the Windsors ("After all I've done for that f—ing family," she railed in one taped phone conversation with a friend) and some elements of the nation she said she would be glad to leave altogether if it weren't for her sons.

(The amazing irony, of course, is the mileage that the royal family may be able to get out of Diana's death.)

Diana died as a kind of martyr—not the kind she would have been had her car hit one of those land mines she campaigned against so visibly in Bosnia, or if the Irish Republican Army had blown her up, as it had once reportedly plotted to do.

"The royals haven't had a real martyr since King Charles I was beheaded by his fellow Englishmen about 350 years ago for being so stubborn about the divine right of kings business."

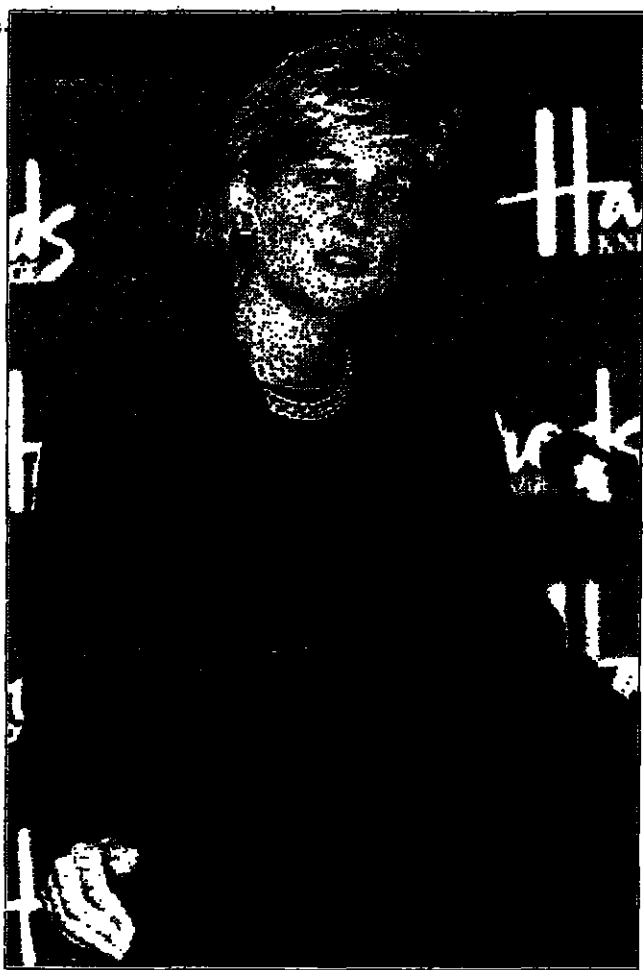
In dying as a collateral victim of the "stalkerazzi," running from cameras the way the

rest of us would run from a gunman, she bought the royal family—certainly her own sons—at least some temporary measure of respect and distance from unrelenting publicity onslaught. Killing the golden goose that was Diana may well rein in the paparazzi in a way that even the Queen of England's personal pleas had never managed to do.

And then, too, Diana died just at the point in her life when, whatever her personal happiness, she had the potential to become what the royal family had always feared the American-born, twice-divorced Duchess of Windsor would become, and Sarah Ferguson has—an embarrassingly footloose ex-royal divorcee, living the "toughie" life among Onassis-like folk of undeniable bank balances and dubious character.

Nor will she now ever become a Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV. The couple bedded once, on their wedding night, and split—he to his mistresses and tailors, she to rattle licentiously around Europe and return at last to London, where she literally hammered on the closed doors of Westminster Abbey during her husband's coronation.

(Certain elements in Britain cannot have been pleased with the mother of the future king consorting with men of dusky hue, however rich; Edwina Mountbatten, wife of Lord Mountbatten, who was Prince



Charles' great-uncle and "honorary grandfather," scandalized her peers more than 50 years ago by carrying on romantically with Indian

leader Jawaharlal Nehru.)

Diana's death can be thought of as so tidy an ending that Internet conspiracists are even now suggesting in chat rooms that the palace machine arranged it all.

She was the James Dean of the royal family, a rebel who finally found a cause.

In that smarmy, overused tabloid word "caring," Diana's causes, her compassionate work among the poor and suffering, touching lepers and AIDS victims, built upon an already deep-rooted royal tradition—especially as practiced by women who married into the family.

A hundred years ago, Alexandra, the Danish-born wife of King Edward VII, was visiting a lame man and assured him that her own leg, crippled by rheumatic fever, was still useful. "Look what I can do," she said, and swung the stiff leg over a chair.

A young female royal, on a visit to British casualties during World War I, complained to Queen Mary, "I'm tired and I hate hospitals." Queen Mary told her: "You are a member of the British royal family. We are never tired, and we all love hospitals."

The present queen mother would play a round of snooker

with reporters and draw a pint of ale in a London pub, all for the cameras.

Diana built solidly upon this, with her charm and very unruly capacity for at-ease small talk; broadcasters recalling some kind gesture of hers teased up like Walter Cronkite announcing JFK's death. An English friend of mine, walking in Kensington Gardens one winter afternoon, got whacked by a snowball thrown by one of the little Wales boys, whose mother, Diana, ran up to apologize.

The difference with Diana is that it was about herself too. She was the premiere member of the Oprah Generation, for whom the public confessional was always good for the soul, and no topic too intimate for discussion, ad nauseam, from psychic advisers to high-colonic therapies.

That has its uses. When famous people talk about their suicide attempts or bulimia, we commoners are comforted in our failings. But what was good for her was not good for the royal family.

Too much inattention was unhealthy; Queen Victoria's heir and her ministers worked for years to pry her out of her widow's isolation. The Windsors have been walking a balance beam for decades, between appearing too distant and too human. British constitutionalist Walter Bagehot warned about letting too much daylight in upon majesty, but Diana invited in klieg lights.

The truism about royals—that those who talk don't know and those who know don't talk—couldn't hold when it was a royal herself doing the talking. (A colleague and I would discuss who we would rather dine with, Charles or Diana. She preferred Diana, whom I considered sweet but unlettered, and anyway, hadn't I already heard everything about the woman?)

At least Wallis Simpson, for whom King Edward VIII abdicated his throne, kept a pillow in her house embroidered with the admonition "Never complain, never explain."

The royal family is a lagging indicator, a fixed thing, changing incrementally and cautiously, like the petidic table of elements. Diana was often said to be saving the monarchy by making it entertaining, but one of the hardest lessons life hands out is that what is useful and important need not be entertaining, and the other way around. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## A woman in search of herself

By Sally Quinn

SIXTEEN YEARS ago, on the eve of Lady Di's marriage to the Prince of Wales, I was asked to do an essay about the impending wedding for the Style section of The Washington Post.

Haunted by the notion of this beautiful young girl becoming a public prisoner for life, I wrote a piece that began, "Don't do it! Do it!" She would be giving up her identity by marrying Prince Charles.

She was too young really to know who she was to begin with.

My editors killed the piece. It was too pessimistic, they said. People want to believe in fairy tales and happy endings. Nobody wanted to read such a gloomy prognostication.

I was then 40, 20 years to the day older than Diana.

It was a time when the feminist movement was at its peak and we were all so aware of the fragility of a woman's identity. I didn't see how, after she married a man of such extraordinary fame, she could be her own person, whoever that might have been.

The first pictures were ravishing, the shy, lovely young woman with blond hair and a blue suit, showing off her new sapphire and diamond engagement ring, her husband standing protectively over her.

The first image was cast.

I could imagine her pleased by those photos, a very young woman who catches sight of herself and says: Oh, so that's who I am. Her minutes with the press, which would one day go spinning out of control, had begun.

Next came the wedding. Overnight, she was an international sensation. She seemed to exult in her newfound celebrity, and why not? The publicity was extraordinarily flattering and nothing had happened to dispel the notion that she was the perfect princess, adored by her subjects—and more importantly, by her husband.

She was pregnant. Mother and child. It was all going so well.

Yes, the press was sometimes overly attentive, overly exuberant. But Diana and the press had the beginnings of a comfortable and mutually profitable, symbiotic relationship. It was almost as if she were beginning to form herself through the eyes of the press.

Then things began to go a bit sour—rumors of trouble in the marriage, of Charles' long-term relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles, stories about bulimia and anorexia, emotional scenes. This only heated up the coverage, though now it was less adoring, less flattering. The scent of blood was in the water.

Strangely, she seemed to binge and purge on publicity, teasing and flirting with the press, then dodging or haranguing them.

She was trying to control her image by



Royal wedding: Not a happy ending for a fairy tale

controlling the publicity—but as anyone knows who has been in the public eye, trying to manipulate the media is like trying to make a good bargain with the devil.

One minute Diana was the sly vixen telling horrible tales about her husband, and the next, the adoring mother. She was having a public affair with an Army major who told all—and then she surfaced holding the hands of dying AIDS patients. She was off with a football player, then complaining on television about how terribly the royal family treated her, then reading stories to sick children in the hospital.

Finally this summer, she was photographed in Bosnia, campaigning to stop the proliferation of land mines—and days later in her bikini, necking in full view of the paparazzi with Dodi Fayed on his yacht.

So who was she?

I don't think she really knew. When she was killed Saturday in a car crash, she was still trying to concoct—or retrieve—an identity that had never been allowed to form. When she married Charles, she was doomed to mature in public. Her mirror was her beloved and despised press. It was only through the press that she could see herself tinker with the reflections.

I met the princess several times in Washington, and one evening in particular stands out. She was absolutely charming—nice, bright, funny and most unexpectedly, she had an incredible sense of irony about herself and her image. She didn't seem at all angry about the press. On the contrary, she was what I would call accepting.

How, I asked, did she withstand the lack of privacy and the inexhaustible media interest in her? She smiled and shrugged and said something to the effect of "what will be will be."

I often wondered how things would have been different if she hadn't married Charles that day 16 years ago. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Visiting a war cemetery in Sarajevo last month



# Paparazzi take the heat after death of Princess Diana

By Shawn Hubler and Ann W. O'Neill

THERE IS a certain intimacy that comes to pass between predator and prey. The "paparazzi" who pursued Princess Diana until the day she died used to boast that she saw more of them than of her own sons.

With the familiarity of old enemies, they coined a lexicon for their jobs, "blitzing her" in a surprise attack, or "whacking her" in a surprise attack, or "ganging up to 'hose her down.'"

"Why don't you rape someone else?" she shrieked to them once, during a supposedly private shopping trip. But they wanted her. They had a time-honored deal: They used her, and she used them.

On Sunday, fresh waves of outrage rolled over the possibility that that deal may have contributed, at least in part, to her death. The tabloid "stalkerazzi," that increasingly aggressive breed of

celebrity photographer, came, for the umpteenth time in recent years, under fire as a symbol of all that is wrong about our public relationship with the well-known.

Now, in the aftermath of her fatal crash, enquiring minds want to know: Who are these people? Is this journalism? And, if the worst is true, how can the bad apples among them live with themselves?

Officials have not yet released the names of the photographers detained in Paris in the wake of Diana's accident. But everyone who is anyone is well-acquainted with the genre: people armed with camera lenses shaped like bazookas who ride high-powered motorbikes and speed boats, using everything from tripods to infrared cameras to staged accidents, all to show the public a side of celebrity that celebrities don't want them to see.

The paparazzi aren't new. The celebrity photographers for whom the breed is named date at least to the 1950s.

What is new are the stakes. Simply put, it has never paid so well.

This month, *The Globe* shelled out \$200,000 for exclusive North American rights to photos of Princess Diana and the companion with whom she died, Dodi Fayed. Photographer Mario Brenna is said to have earned \$5 million for the world rights to the first pictures documenting the couple's romance.

A shot of the widowed Princess Caroline of Monaco with a new boyfriend a few years back netted a comfortable \$400,000 for the paparazzi who got the shot. Last year, a trespasser on the set of the film "Batman & Robin" was thrown off the lot after security guards found a camera in his sock and a note in his pocket that said, "Batman only—\$35,000."

"Money like that creates an international tabloid feeding frenzy," acknowledged Steve Coz, editor of the *National Enquirer*. "Anything can happen when the stalker paparazzi think a photograph can win them the lottery."

The money stems from the changing economics of tabloid business and the growing popularity of celebrity news. Entire television programs now are devoted to the lives of the rich and famous.

One reason is that tabloids have been forced to stretch to even greater extremes to protect their market niche. And relatively tame photos that were bread and butter to the tabloids 15 years ago, are the stuff of mainstream magazines today.

In the post-O.J. era, even many mainstream publications have hopped on the circulation-building bandwagon of celebrity news. "We've got celebrities on the cover of *Newsweek*, we got celebrities on the cover of *Time*," Coz said.

Internet Web sites were rife on Sunday with chatrooms demanding that consumers boycott the tabloids, and asking: "Are the paparazzi to blame for



Diana's death?" Talk radio hummed with debate over the rights of the media.

Sunday morning news once again tackled the uncomfortable subject of "celebrity journalism," and, in the heat of grief, they didn't come out well. On ABC's "This Week," for instance, Los Angeles security expert Gavin De Becker referred to the supermarket tabloids and their photographers as "lice."

Celebrity photographers, meanwhile, charged that the incident has left them tarred with a broad brush, and stressed that they are as appalled and saddened as the rest of the world at Princess Diana's death. Several noted that the car in which she and Fayed were killed had apparently been hurtling along at about twice the posted speed limit—a fatal choice that the people in the car, and not the media, had made.

"Everybody's out to blame the photographers," said Lawrence Schwartzwald, a photographer who covers celebrities and news in New York. "Well, big deal that they were following her car."

They were following her everywhere. The snipiest thing was this guy going 80 to 100 miles an hour. Maybe Dodi was getting his kicks. Maybe he was saying, 'Let's give the paparazzi a run for their money.' I have a feeling it was probably more of a game than a getaway."

And in any case, photographers agreed, it isn't clear whether any photos arising from the tragedy will be marketable any time soon. Tabloid editors, from London to Lantana, Fla., from Hamburg, Germany, to Oslo, Norway, rushed to distance themselves from the incident and vowed not to touch such photos, limiting the bidding for such material.

Nonetheless, in Los Angeles, eternal headquarters for the stalkers and the stalked, resident celebrities and their protectors nodded I told you so.

Despite the fact that the celebrity media in the United States is mild-

mannered compared to the stops-out European tabloids—and the fact that celebrities routinely leak items about themselves and each other to raise their profiles in the media—the past few years have provided a litany of out-of-control paparazzi anecdotes. Stories range from the now almost ancient Sean Penn incident, in which he punched out a paparazzo, to more recent run-ins, such as the bushwhacking of Arnold Schwarzenegger and his pregnant wife, Maria Shriver, outside their kids' school by two carloads of tabloid photographers.

But to the celebrities represented by the Screen Actor's Guild, said Katherine Moore, spokeswoman for the 90,000-member guild, "it comes down to a critical ethical question: Where do you draw the line between the practice of journalism and the pilfering of the tabloid bounty hunters?"

Diana, of course, was the greatest source of money for the free-lance paparazzi who dogged her private life. Mating into glamorous elegance from the gawky teen-age fiancée of a future king, Diana became the face of Britain, the favorite for the official photographers who recorded her passage as a national icon and a humanitarian messenger.

And she and the royal family were on familiar terms with many of the people who covered her. Veteran British photographer Michael Brennan, who now works in the United States, said that "the last time I saw queenie, she stopped and asked how I was doing."

Indeed, said Les Wilson, former photo editor of a major British tabloid, "staff photographers are well known to the royals. Some of them are on a first-name, even Christmas-card, terms with them."

But there are photographers and there are photographers. And Wilson added, "the road free-lancers are different. The way they drive around on motorbikes; it's an accident waiting to happen."

The accident happened in Paris. On Sunday, French police were questioning seven free-lance photographers who apparently were pursuing Diana and Fayed when the crash occurred.

For the paparazzi on the scene, it had been just another Saturday night. They waited for Diana and Dodi at the back door of the Ritz Hotel, photographed them. But that was not enough and some of them followed their car on motorbikes as they sped off at high speed.

Britain's six tabloid newspapers had an insatiable appetite for Diana pictures shared by newspapers and magazines all over the world. In London, the *Sunday Mirror* published a special magazine insert of fuzzy color paparazzi photos shot at long range of Diana and her lover Fayed embracing in bathing suits while on vacation in the Mediterranean.

"A Story of Love," trumpeted the cover of the magazine, which was being distributed around Great Britain even as the couple died in Paris. "After her cheerless marriage, what better than a hot-blooded Mediterranean man?" asked the story illustrated by the pictures.

And yet, the royal rat pack of reporters and photographers was essential to Diana as she toured Britain and the world for good causes. Photo opportunities were carefully structured to demonstrate her concern for AIDS sufferers, cancer patients and the victims of land mines in war-torn countries.

It was a love-hate relationship that, in the aftermath of her divorce from Prince Charles, Diana had sought to end. Last November, two British paparazzi sold a tape to an American television network on which the princess, on the verge of tears, implored paparazzi to leave her alone.

"The press is savage. It doesn't forgive anything. They only track the mistakes. Each intention is misread, every gesture criticized," Diana said last week.

"I think that abroad it is different. I am

greeted with affection. They take me for what I am without any a priori, without being on the look out for a gaffe. In Great Britain it's the contrary and I think that anybody in my place would have left a long time ago but I can't. I have my sons," Diana told the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* last week, two days before British tabloids published paparazzi photos of the princess raising her leg over Fayed's shoulders to clamber aboard his jet ski.

At the hotel Ritz Saturday night in Paris, Diana and Fayed posed for pictures before getting into the car. Then to the surprise of photographers, the Mercedes screeched away at great speed.

"The photographers apparently weren't chasing so much as trying to catch up," photo editor Wilson told the British Broadcasting Corp. The crash occurred in a tunnel near the River Seine, killing the couple and a hotel-hired driver, and seriously injuring Diana's bodyguard.

In the wake of tragedy came fury from Diana's family and celebrities who have also felt paparazzi sting. Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti, a friend of Diana's, called the Italian news agency in Milan.

"It's time they put a stop to these stakewalks and chases. There should be a law to protect citizens in this area. Usually they put a traffic light at a crossroads after 20 people have been killed. Here we have the death of a symbol for the world...a woman full of life," Pavarotti said.

Actor Tom Cruise told CNN, "I've actually been in that same tunnel being chased by paparazzi. They run lights and they chase you and harass you the whole time. It happens all over the world. You don't know what it's like being chased by them."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



# Dodi Fayed pictured himself as next Onassis

By Richard Boudreaux

LONDON—If there was a suitor who could offer Princess Diana some privacy and peace of mind in the style to which she was accustomed, it was Dodi Fayed.

The son of the Egyptian self-made billionaire who owns the Harrods department store, Dodi had bodyguards and private planes. He had the use of 11 luxury homes from Manhattan to the French Riviera. And he got \$100,000 a month from his father.

When the 41-year-old playboy fell for Diana this summer and whisked her to the Mediterranean on his father's 190-foot yacht, a friend of his said, "He sees himself as Aristotle Onassis and Diana as his Jackie O."

Diana apparently felt the same way. "I think Di understands why Jackie Kennedy married Onassis," the Daily Mail's royal watcher, Richard Kay, wrote at the time. "There was this extraordinary circus around her, and he offered the opportunity to get away from it."

Their deaths in a Paris tunnel car crash

while fleeing photographers early Sunday shattered that protective cocoon. The accident also brought a tragic twist to the often painful story of an immigrant family's rise to extraordinary prominence—but not full acceptance—in British upper-class society.

In many ways, Dodi and his father were viewed here as Onassis-like characters, super-rich outsiders in Camelot.

Mohammed Fayed, the son of a schoolteacher, was born in Egypt 63 years ago. He added an "AI" to his name to imply noble background—a decision that was to haunt him in Britain. Through a combination of shrewdness, connections and luck, he struck it rich in the oil business before moving here in the early 1970s.

Dodi, born in Alexandria, Egypt, was the only child of Mohammed Fayed's marriage to the late Samira Khashoggi, the sister of billionaire arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. The boy grew up in a world of jet-set privilege, dividing time between family homes in Egypt and France.

He attended the exclusive Le Rosey school in Switzerland and did a short stint at Sandhurst, the British military academy

for youngmen seeking social status. Later he worked briefly as an attaché in the United Arab Emirates Embassy in London.

He also became a fixture on the London nightclub scene, a lover of fast cars and beautiful women.

"He was a chick magnet," Andrew Wainrib, an old friend who used to barhop with Dodi, told a British TV interviewer last month. "To get a girl, I don't think there are any limits on his extravagances, whether it is chartering a plane or getting on about. He would go to any part."

Other acquaintances described Dodi as a dark, curly-haired Hugh Hefner. He "collected celebrities" as well as women, they said, and sat back quietly at his own lavish parties to watch them have a good time. His guest lists included actors Tony Curtis, Ryan O'Neal, Farrah Fawcett and Brooke Shields.

Oddly, for a man with wealth, Dodi often failed to pay for the clubs and mansions he rented for these bashes. In Beverly Hills, Calif., he leased a series of mansions for prices ranging from \$20,000 to \$35,000 a month and was sued repeatedly for stiffing the landlords with nonpayment or bounced checks.

In London and Hollywood, he worked in movie production, co-financing the Academy Award-winning British film "Chariots of Fire," along with the not-so-successful "Hook." The World According to Garp and "F/X."

"He wasn't exactly a serious producer," said Derek Malcolm, film critic of the British newspaper the Guardian. "He was a dabbler. He loved being around the celebrities. He didn't have much else to do."

He was even less involved in business with his father, who had never designated a family heir to run the store. A Harrods spokesman said Dodi spent about a third of his time on "product development" for the store, but the spokesman couldn't think of a specific product he had developed. "He had an office in the store but never walked around as if he were the owner's son," the spokesman said.

Dodi's eight-month marriage to Suzanne Gregard, a one-time American model, ended amicably in 1987.

Another model, Kelly Fisher, claimed

last month that she had given up a lucrative career, at his insistence, to marry him, only to be spurned when he fell for Diana.

Meanwhile, the playboy's father was becoming a pillar of British society.

He bought Harrods, Punch, the Scottish castle of Clan Ross and a number of other emblems of empire. He employed 5,000 people, steered major investment into Britain and once averted a national currency crisis by persuading his friend the Sultan of Brunei to keep billions of pounds in sterling rather than switch them into dollars.

Harrods gave Fayed an in with Buckingham Palace.

The shop has four warrants, one from each of the members of the royal family allowed to issue such social seals of approval: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, the Queen Mother and Prince Charles. Fayed also sponsors the annual Royal Windsor Horse Show, where he shares the queen's box.

But Fayed's purchase of Harrods, for \$900 million in 1985, was also to bring him discredit and prevent him from achieving one goal that had eluded him—British citizenship.

Roland W. Rowland, a politically powerful rival, also coveted the department store. After the purchase, he denounced Fayed as "the hero from zero" and persuaded the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate the Egyptian's background and financing.

In a report that did not affect ownership of the store, the department concluded in 1990 that Fayed had lied about his origins, "practiced deception on a grand scale" and changed his name. The report was cited in 1994 when the government rejected his application for British citizenship.

"It was a terribly British way of doing things," said Paul Goodman, a commentator at Britain's Daily Telegraph. "It was a battle between the establishment, with its accepted British ways of doing things, and a charismatic outsider who busted in."

While acknowledging that he had altered some minor facts about his life when he was buying Harrods, Fayed accused the Conservative government of former Prime Minister John Major of



Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed

racism and began a no-holds-barred campaign to clear his name.

When the campaign came to nothing, he disclosed that he had bribed a string of officials to help him pursue it. Three Cabinet ministers resigned in disgrace, and the scandal helped bring down Major's government last year.

Many who know him believe that the vengeful Fayed had more than just his son's romantic feelings in mind when he invited Diana to vacation with his family in the south of France in July.

Dodi and Diana had met 10 years earlier—when his polo team beat Prince

Charles' team in a match at Windsor Great Park—but there was no hint of romance until that vacation. Then, after Di turned up last month on Dodi's yacht, British papers began reporting that the elder Fayed was eager to see the couple married.

"There's no evidence that he was discouraging the idea," Goodman said, noting the royal family's unease over the relationship. "He would have seen the angles as well as anyone. It was a fantastic way, I suppose, for him of slapping the so-called establishment in the face."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service







# A tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales

BRITISH AIRWAYS' staff worldwide will observe a two minute silence on Saturday to commemorate the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales at Westminster Abbey in London.

The mark of respect will be announced simultaneously on all flights irrespective of the aircraft's location, at 11 a.m. (10 am GMT). BA Travel Shops nationwide will be closed all day.

BA's Chairman Sir Colin Marshall wrote to all the company's employees following the tragic events at the weekend in Paris.

Sir Colin said: "Many staff at British Airways came to know and love Diana, Princess of Wales, as they flew her all over the world during the years of her public life. Her interest in, and care for people was shared by everyone at BA. We all mourn her death and

send our deepest condolences to her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, and to all her family."

The company's global reservations staff have witnessed an overseas surge in interest for airline seats to fly to London this coming Friday and Saturday with callers saying they hoped to pay their personal tributes to the Princess in the capital city.

Demand has been particularly strong from the USA and mainland Europe - notably France, Germany and Holland - and airline management has pledged to add extra flights where possible.

BA's in-flight programming service has begun a television tribute to Diana on long-haul routes. ■

# Doctor brings patients and photographs to life

By Kofi Attah  
Special to The Star

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS are not always totally over-shadowed by their professional counterparts. Dr F.R. Haddad has long been one of Jordan's best photographers, despite not having sufficient time to dedicate to this pastime. If he had, it would certainly enable him to fully showcase his considerable photographic talents.

Visiting his photography show under the theme "Aspects of Life" at his private exhibi-

tion hall, the visitor is struck by two things: the versatility Haddad demonstrates as an artist and the sentiments expressed through his photographic works.

On entering the hall, the visitor may not feel particularly curious or enthusiastic about certain potentially mundane aspects of life, but Haddad's work has the strength to take you beneath the surface value of the material. Gradually, the images reach out and you can connect and relate to them. This subconscious awakening is the key to making "Aspects of Life" so outstanding.

It is a breath of fresh air and awareness-raising concerning child abuse and poverty. Haddad's work can be perceived as a standard exhibition using traditional methods, devices and photographic 'language'. But it goes deeper than this first impression, with faces of children in depressive moods, villagers crowded into a slum suburb of Baghdad and the ruins of ancient cities of Jordan.

There are serious undertones, illustrating deprived men selling second-hand shoes in a city square, poor roadside food-sellers and hopeless women clad in traditional black Arab dress. These themes represent the photographer's personal interpretation.

Dr Haddad says "I am highly intrigued by various aspects of life." Many of the photographs on display portray men in different stages of life but his main almost obsessional preoccupation is with children. His works focusing on children outnumber those on any other subject. "I like to photograph children and old men, as they are most easily snapped" he said.

The majority of the photographs found in the exhibition's inner hall are centred on old men, an interpretation of the final stages of life.

Haddad's genius lies in his ability to put creative thinking to work through the medium of photography.

The combination of medicine and photogra-



phy gives the visitor a clue to his diverse sources of inspiration, and to why he is so successful and highly esteemed among Jordan's amateur photographers.

The genius of Haddad is in manifesting the workings of the entire mind: thinking not only bourgeois and conventional thoughts but expressing through his work the world of a child, a sense of humor and even reflections on the misery and despair of the 'under-dog' society's down trodden ones.

His artistic talent was confirmed when he won first prize in the 1975 photography competi-

tion "CHILDHOOD", organized by the Jordan Photographic society at the Royal Cultural Center. He has also won many prizes including the Queen Noor Award for photography. The current exhibition was to have been shown on 16 August at the Royal Cultural Center, but was called off at the last minute at the request of the Jordan Photographic Society.

It was therefore relocated to Haddad's private exhibition hall (an annex of his clinic), and can be viewed daily from 10 am. It can be found on the 2nd circle near Beitneah, till further notice. Tel: 642533. ■



Haddad

# Fun time at the British Council

AMMAN (Star)—Wednesday 27 August marked the end of the summer courses at The British Council. To celebrate, students gave presentations of poems they had written and songs they had learnt to sing in English. There was also a presentation of Jordan's customs and a show of national dress.

Next there was a prize giving ceremony and prizes were awarded to Jaser Bustanji in the 6-8 year old class, Farah Aymen Maraga, Yazan Zuhair Jweihan, Hamzeh Subalmet, and Hussein Mudeh from the 9-12 year old classes. Deema Al Haidi, Osama Fawzi Abrouni, Mervat Nusuf Salaha, Mohammed Osama Abu Salaha, Obada Katous, Asell Hani Khalid, Rima Akramawi and Muhammed Hashim Al Haj from our teen classes. The prizes were for good progress, a good attitude to learning and for being helpful and polite in class.

During the summer there has also been an Art Competition with the winning entries sent to Britain to enter the British



# The best of Jordan in the heart of Paris



UNDER THE patronage of the Minister of Tourism, Mr Akel Biltaji, a cocktail reception was held at Le Grand Inter-Continental Hotel, Paris, on 29 August to celebrate the beginning of the city's Jordanian Gastronomic and Cultural Week. The promotion was inspired by the initiative taken by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Mrs Bernadette Chirac to create the Jordanian Season in Paris.

The Inter-Continental Hotel, in co-ordination with Royal Jordanian, presented Jordan's wealth of culture to the guests. The reception catered for 300 people, among them a large number of journalists, tour operators and dignitaries. Jordan's Ambassador Sherif Fawaz Sharaf, French Ambassador to Jordan Mr Bernard Bajolet, and Mr Riyadh Swalha on behalf of Royal Jordanian were also present.

The evening was a resounding success, featuring authentic Jordanian cuisine, prepared by top Jordanian chefs flown straight from Amman. As guests entered the cocktail reception, they were greeted with warm Jordanian hospitality, a smile and Arabic coffee from

the traditionally dressed coffee man. Mr Bern Schutz, general manager of Le Grand Inter-Continental, greeted the guests. A welcome speech was delivered by Mr Mahmoud Malhas, Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan's director of sales and marketing. Later, Mr Biltaji the Mr Bajolet spoke on the importance of Jordanian-French relations.

Guests had the opportunity to witness the dancing from Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan's traditional debka troupe "Ya Hala". The rhythmic stamping of the men and the graceful gestures of the women created a spectacular performance. In addition, a fashion show displayed traditional Jordanian dress from the famous Kawar collection, alongside new, contemporary styles from fashion designer Hana Sadiq.

By the end of the night, with sponsorship from Royal Jordanian Airlines, Le Grand Inter-Continental Paris, and Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan, the reception had succeeded in transporting the very best of Jordan straight to the heart of Paris. ■



The Samson family at home



"Hey! So I made the wrong decision! ... But you know, I really wasn't sure I wanted to swing on a star, carry moonbeams home in a jar!"



"Hey ... this could be the chief."

**SLAPSTIX**  
Publicity is like poison.  
It doesn't hurt unless  
you swallow it.

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The

ENGLISH PRO

SATURDAY

2:00—Holy Koran  
2:30—Muppet Show  
3:00—Blue Heeler  
3:30—World of  
4:00—The Valley  
4:30—Till  
5:00—French Pres  
5:30—New Head  
6:00—Neighbors  
6:30—Ties that Bi  
7:00—Prison  
7:30—Time Trav  
8:00—News at 8  
10:30—Feature Fi

SUNDAY

2:00—Holy Koran  
2:30—The Magic  
3:00—Energy Exp  
3:30—Lucky I tak  
4:00—American U  
4:30—French Prog  
5:00—News in Fr  
5:30—News Head  
6:00—Neighbors  
6:30—French Pres  
7:00—Cinema, Cin  
7:30—National Ge  
8:00—Renegade  
8:30—News at 8  
9:00—The West W  
11:30—Sister

MONDAY

2:00—Holy Koran  
2:30—The Show W  
3:00—Cowboy C  
3:30—Golfing Spo  
4:00—Deep Water  
4:30—Animal Show  
5:00—Deep Water  
5:30—French Prog  
6:00—News Head  
6:30—Neighbors  
7:00—Murphy Bro

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# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV  
from 6-12 September

## ENGLISH PROGRAMS

### SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:30—Muppet Show
- 3:00—Blue Healers
- 3:30—World of Geo
- 4:00—The Vally Between
- 4:30—Tilt
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Ties that Bind
- 8:30—Prison
- 9:10—Time Trax
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film

### SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:30—The Magic School Bus
- 3:00—Energy Express
- 3:40—Lucky Luky
- 4:00—American Chart Show
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 8:30—National Geographic
- 9:10—Renegade
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—One West Walkiki
- 11:15—Sisters

### MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:10—The Show With The Mouse
- 2:30—Cowboy Of The Mos Mesa
- 3:00—Gillette Sports Special
- 3:30—Deep Water Have
- 4:00—Animal Show
- 4:30—Ocean Girl
- 5:15—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Murphy Brown



Muppet Show, Saturday at 2:30 pm

- 8:30—Babylon 5
- 9:10—Highlander
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Emergency Room(er)
- 11:15—Homicide

### TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:10—Sandocan
- 2:30—C.R.O.
- 3:00—Square One T.V
- 3:30—Skippy
- 4:30—The Album Show
- 5:15—French Programs
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Coach
- 8:00—Tilt
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Nature of Things
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Great Defender

## Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149):  
The Saint
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149):  
The Lost World (Jurassic Park)
- Plaza (Tel: 699238):  
Al Mara' Wal Satour (Arabic)
- Concord I (Tel: 677420):  
Batman & Robin
- Concord II (Tel: 677420):  
ACE Ventura 2

### THURSDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:10—Ovide and The Gang
- 2:30—The New Fred and Barney
- 3:00—America's Funniest People
- 3:30—He Shoot He Scores
- 4:30—Shingalana
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Trivial Pursuit
- 8:00—Parenthood
- 8:30—lois and clark (Superman)
- 9:10—Kung Fu
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film
- 12:00—Step By Step

### FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Flstones
- 2:30—Leo The Lion
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—Family Matters
- 4:30—NBA
- 6:10—French Film
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—The Health Show
- 8:30—Adventures of Brisco County
- 9:10—Drama Series
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Best Seller
- 11:15—Daddy's Girls

### PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

### SAMEDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Yacoutie
- 7:00—Le journal

- 7:15—Magazine L'auf de Colomb

### DIMANCHE

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Magazine Faut pas rêver
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine pour tous

### LUNDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Thalassa
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine scientifique

### MARDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Captain Café Emission de variétés
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Orient sur Seine

### MERCREDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Magazine
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine

### JEUDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Divertissement
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Le dessous des cartes

### VENREDI

- 3:20—Divertissement L'école des fans
- 5:30—Quai numéro 1 - 2/3
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

## Movies & Videos

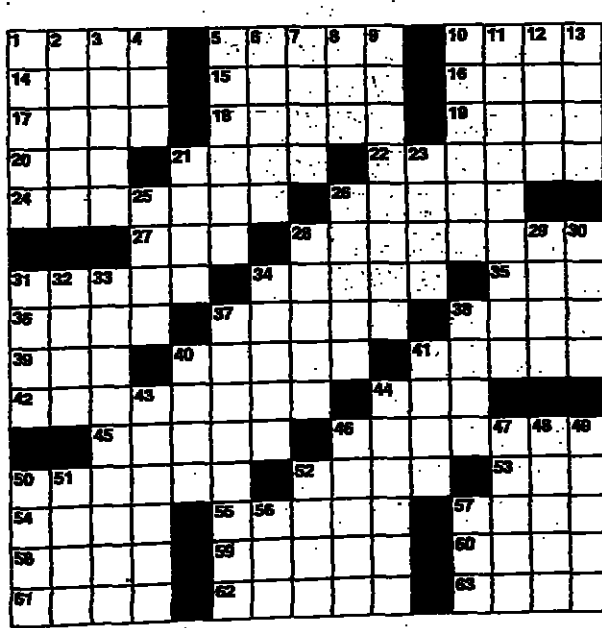


Out to Sea  
Good old  
comedy  
by the  
best

Dyan Cannon, Walter Matthau, Jack Lemon and Martha Coolidge all appeared for the premiere of "Out to Sea" in Los Angeles last week. Both Matthau and Lemon are hilarious in the sea adventure where both old men try to make a youthful comeback.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1—avis
  - 5 Chronicles
  - 10 Wood cover
  - 14 Golf club
  - 15 Small amount
  - 16 Malacca
  - 17—ex machine
  - 19 Uninteresting
  - 20 Naval officer: abbr.
  - 21 Sick in one's
  - 22 Piece of worship
  - 24 Value
  - 26 Make
  - 27 Tacial: abbr.
  - 28 Needed some water
  - 31 Briny
  - 34 Synops
  - 35 Fright
  - 36 Cloth with metallic thread
  - 37 Scam
  - 38 Concerning
  - 39 Brew
  - 40 Vote to accept
  - 41 Fake
  - 42 Metropolis: recreational enclave
  - 44 Win over
  - 45 Incompetent
  - 46 Prone to sermonize
  - 50 Kin of messes
  - 52 Do one good
  - 53 Vintage car
  - 54 Continent
  - 55 Elevations
  - 57 Armored car
  - 58 Pungent plant
  - 59 Bay window
  - 60 Reason of—
  - 61 Gaelic
  - 62 Toy bear
  - 63 Line a roof
  - 64 Heavily built
  - 65 Colors
  - 66 Criticism
  - 67 severely
  - 68 Chad's neighbor
  - 69 Good manners
  - 70 Begn
  - 71 Photograph
  - 72 Tiny bit
  - 73 Sword
  - 74 Root vegetable
  - 75 Eastern food
  - 76 Gift
  - 77 Whined
  - 78 Jealousy
  - 79 Malicious
  - 80 Rubs
  - 81 Cotton bundle
  - 82 Pul-on
  - 83 Hot under the collar
  - 84 Flaccid
  - 85 Floor cover
  - 86 Blue dye
  - 87 English theologian
  - 88 Chew the rag
  - 89 Hot handles
  - 90 Heat
  - 91 Shift
  - 92 Addict
  - 93 Skidded
  - 94 Wrath
  - 95 Stealth

## —THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Domestic issues and personal matters clash. Hold off on the personal matters.

**Aries (March 21-April 19).** Supervisors will be horrid. Don't argue, just mind. How can you argue with a person who won't listen?

**Taurus (April 20-Sept. 20).** Allocate your resources. Go over your budget with your sweetheart so you can get something you both want.

**Gemini (Sept. 21-June 21).** Partnership possibilities attract your attention. A domestic problem clears up. Changes are necessary, but the answer's obvious.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22).** You have to work. Life gets easier soon. A partner comes to your rescue. Work together to get a big assignment done.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22).** Romance could be quite expensive. Wait and make a more practical purchasing decision.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Keep your mind on domestic matters. There's a change underway, so make sure it works out in your favor. You'll let go of an anchor. The emphasis is on romance.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Try to get all your paperwork done. Do research and write reports. Domestic matters demand attention. Something there isn't going as planned. Costs are high but money's coming in.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Get your finances figured out. Gather up the money that's owed you and pay your debts. Focus on learning.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You start off on a good note, with the moon in your sign. You're powerful, so make your presence known. Get involved in scientific or technical subjects.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Finish old business. The answer you've been looking for will become available soon. Your focus is on personal matters. Your self-esteem is growing by leaps and bounds.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Friends want all your time. That's fine, except that you have work to do. You're pressed for time. Don't schedule anything.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20).** Authority figures are a pain in the neck. Put up with them. Life gets easier. Group activities bring you valuable experience.

**If You're Having a Birthday This Week:** Your focus is on home and family. Make the necessary changes to get things right. Renovations at home go well.

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## Bridge

Lighten the Load  
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 10  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ A 10 8 4  
♣ 8 7 2

**WEST**  
♠ 5 4 3 2  
♥ 3  
♦ J 9 6 5  
♣ K 10 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ A J 9 8 6  
♥ 6 5  
♦ K 7 2  
♣ Q J 9

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7  
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8  
♦ Q 3  
♣ A 5 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of 0  
Most bridge players feel that their opponents always hold better cards. Thus they tend to cling to every high card they have, sometimes to their great detriment.

We like North's raise to two hearts despite a balanced hand and only three-card support. A one-no-trump response tends to be discouraging

and, with 9 high-card points, there is no reason to slow partner down. South's raise to game was automatic.

West's lead of a low diamond got the defense off to a good start because it attacked the only entry to dummy's spade. Declarer played low, East rose with the king and declarer followed with the three. The diamond continuation was taken in the closed hand, declarer drew trumps in two rounds and then led a spade to the queen and ace.

The club shift from East was automatic, and declarer had no counter. South tried running all the trumps, but the defenders had no trouble hanging on to clubs. In the fullness of time declarer had to concede two tricks in that suit for down one.

Declarer was unlucky in West's choice of opening lead. West would probably have selected a club and declarer would have had no problem. Still, South could have salvaged the hand by jettisoning the queen of diamonds under the king at trick one. Later, South can try for the fulfilling trick by finessing the ten of diamonds and, when that holds, the game is in the bag.

## Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

- TIELE
- YINCC
- CUPONE
- RELENK



Print answer here: A

Answers: ELITE CYNIC POUNCE KERNEL

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## Would You Believe...

Margaret Thatcher was Britain's longest-serving prime minister of the 20th century.

Atlantic City opened its first boardwalk in 1870.

The world's first domed stadium was built in Houston, Texas.

Philosopher Bertrand Russell was imprisoned for his pacifist beliefs in 1918.

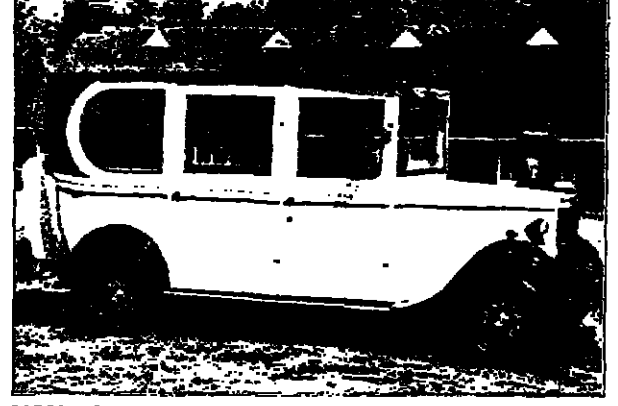
Scotland banned golf in 1457 for fear that it would interfere with the practice of archery, a vital part of the national defense.

Ivan the Terrible had seven wives.

Josef Stalin's name literally meant "man of steel."

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## Enjoy the London 'Black Cab' in Amman



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# Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

## Des millions de rubans rouges pour les obsèques de la princesse Diana

Les autorités religieuses, représentants de la famille royale et responsables du protocole travaillent d'arrache-pied à la préparation des obsèques de Diana samedi en l'abbaye de Westminster: un événement mondial qui se veut «unique» et «moderne», à l'image de «la princesse du peuple».

Le défi consiste à concilier tout à la fois les exigences de l'étiquette et le statut hybride de celle qui conservait son titre de princesse mais pas celui d'altess, perdu lors de son divorce d'avec Charles. Il leur faudra aussi allier la pompe de circonstance exigeant carrosses et uniformes chamarrés et la simplicité manifestée par Diana dans son engagement caritatif. Ce savant dosage se traduira notamment par la présence parmi les quelque 2000 invités d'Hillary Clinton, l'épouse du président américain, au côté de représentants des quelque 110 œuvres caritatives qu'a défendues Lady Di. Pour la France, Bernadette Chirac viendra au nom de son époux et président de la République. Les causes humanitaires soutenues par la princesse seront aussi représentées, avec notamment des membres d'associations pour l'interdiction des mines antipersonnel et de lutte contre le Sida. L'une d'entre elles, que parrainait Diana, mettra samedi des millions de rubans rouges à la disposition du public. Près de 500 membres d'organisations caritatives ont aussi été invités à marcher en procession derrière le cercueil entre le palais Saint James et l'abbaye de Westminster sur un parcours d'environ 1,6 km au bord duquel seront massées plusieurs centaines de milliers de personnes. Un écran géant monté à proximité de l'abbaye permettra de suivre le service religieux.



## Nouvelles du Pays

### Les petits français parlent à l'école

Le collège et le lycée, ce sont beaucoup d'heures passées dans des lieux où l'on apprend à vivre en groupe. Liberté d'expression, représentation des élèves, en France, les conseils de classe sont un pas de plus vers le monde des adultes.

**Au cours du premier trimestre d'une nouvelle année scolaire**, la classe élit deux élèves pour la représenter: ce sont les délégués de classe. Les candidats à ce titre se bousculent rarement. Est-ce dû à la crainte des responsabilités? Ou bien à l'image pas toujours valorisante de cette fonction? Les élèves interrogés estiment en effet que les délégués de classe sont peu (44,3% voire pas du tout (10%) écoutés par les responsables scolaires. Mélanie, 17 ans a quant à elle choisi de devenir déléguée pour «défendre les intérêts des élèves».



Leçon de mathématiques en dernière année de maternelle

Le délégué idéal doit savoir collecter les informations relatives à la vie et au travail scolaire et les diffuser, donner son avis et formuler des propositions et surtout, être un interlocuteur attentif pour ses camarades, ses professeurs et le proviseur. Son action se déroule généralement dans le cadre du conseil de classe et du conseil des délégués des élèves (CDE) regroupant les délégués de tout l'établissement. Mais

d'autres instances leur sont ouvertes, par voie d'élection. Il s'agit notamment du conseil d'administration (CA) où sont prises les grandes décisions concernant l'établissement.

Quel que soit leur niveau d'implication, les délégués ont une appréciation mitigée de leur rôle. L'enrichissement personnel est le sentiment domi-

nant. Aurélie, 17 ans a ainsi eu l'occasion de «connaître le monde des adultes». Mais les délégués jugent souvent leur tâche ingrate, «les autres élèves s'en fichent», déclare Aurélie, et déplorent un impact trop limité. Damien 18 ans constate par exemple: «On ne pèse pas lourd dans les décisions».

Afin d'être davantage entendus, les élèves, à partir de la seconde, se tournent parfois vers les syndicats lycéens. Débats en assemblée générale, propositions, manifestation de rue... les syndicats lycéens, plus récents et moins puissants que les grandes organisations étudiantes ne sont pas à court d'idées. On les voit monter au créneau à chaque grande crise que traverse l'école. Mais l'immense majorité des lycéens n'éprouvent pas le besoin de s'organiser car le syndicalisme est souvent perçu comme trop marqué politiquement.

Le Jourdain

**Chaque année**, la rentrée scolaire bouleverse la vie des familles jordaniennes. Les jours qui la précèdent rappellent le climat des semaines du Ramadan: la foule nombreuse, bruyante et agitée redonne vie aux quartiers en déambulant pour acheter vêtements et matériel scolaire. «Le matin, les rues de la basse ville sont bondées», raconte Nida, secrétaire, je suis obligée de partir plus tôt pour arriver à l'heure à mon travail. Les magasins et les marchés ne désemplissent pas: «Notre travail est saisonnier», explique Ahmed commerçant à Irbid, en période de rentrée, je gagne plus que pendant les deux mois qui suivront, c'est un peu notre fête! Les vacances sont finies. Tant mieux ou tant pis, lundi

dernier des élèves ont entamé une nouvelle année scolaire. Selon le ministère de l'éducation et de l'enseignement les inscrits sont nombreux: 1.400.000 élèves pour 70.000 enseignants répartis sur 4600 écoles publiques et privées. Le premier jour ne diffère pas d'un établissement à l'autre: 7h40 les écoliers se mettent en ligne dans la cour où une heure de récréation leur sera proposée. Puis viendra le moment d'entrer dans les classes désertées depuis deux mois dont certaines portent déjà des traces de moisissure. Les élèves y resteront jusqu'à 13 heures sans cours voire sans professeurs.

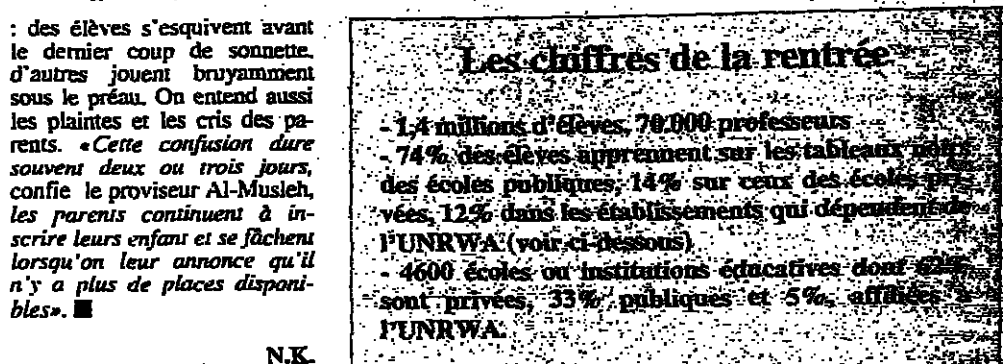
Ce jour de rentrée se distingue par le désordre et le manque d'organisation qui règnent dans les établissements

des élèves s'esquivent avant le dernier coup de sonnette. d'autres jouent bruyamment sous le préau. On entend aussi les plaintes et les cris des parents. «C'est une confusion dure souvent deux ou trois jours», confie le proviseur Al-Musleh, les parents continuent à insister leurs enfants et se fâchent lorsqu'on leur annonce qu'il n'y a plus de places disponibles. ■

N.K.

### Le joli désordre du premier jour

Angoissés ou impatients, plus d'1,4 millions d'enfants ont franchi les portes des écoles jordaniennes pour cette rentrée 97. Une rentrée tout ce qu'il y a de plus ordinaire avec la joie des retrouvailles et la confusion habituelle. Le Jourdain est allé jeter un coup d'œil dans quelques salles de classe d'Irbid.



Premier jour de l'année scolaire: nouveaux cahiers et cartables, nouveaux professeurs et surtout nouveaux amis.

#### Les chiffres de la rentrée

1,4 millions d'élèves, 70.000 professeurs  
74% des élèves apprennent sur les tableaux noirs des écoles publiques; 14% sur ceux des écoles privées; 12% dans les établissements qui dépendent de l'UNRWA (voir ci-dessous)  
4600 écoles ou institutions éducatives dont 33% sont privées, 33% publiques et 5% affiliées à l'UNRWA.

### Premiers coups de crayons

Rawan, en terminale: «Je déteste l'école parce que je sens qu'il y a toujours un abîme entre moi et le professeur. C'est dur d'être obligée d'obéir sans discuter ou de discuter sans être écoutée».

Abed Al-Kareem, professeur d'histoire: «J'aime bien ce moment où je reprends le collier et regrette seulement que certains élèves viennent à l'école juste pour se distraire».

Seif, élève: «A l'école: ni trêve, ni repos mais beaucoup de tâches insignifiantes. Sept heures de travail par jour pour écouter le maître et une seule pour faire de la musique. C'est une vraie vie de galère».

Une mère de famille: «La rentrée, c'est la solution idéale pour sauver les gamins qui pendant les vacances ont l'habitude de traîner dans les rues».

Propos recueillis par Nahed Al-Khlouf

### Scolarité en trois étapes

L'école est obligatoire en France entre 6 et 16 ans et le niveau de scolarisation est l'un des plus importants au monde avec plus de 58% des 5-29 ans qui vont à l'école. Le système éducatif se compose de trois degrés:

- Premier degré. Enseignement préélémentaire (écoles maternelles) et élémentaire (écoles primaires). Scolarité en trois cycles: apprentissages premiers (petite, moyenne et grande section), fondamentaux (grande section, CP, CE1), approfondissement (CE2, CM1, CM2).
- Second degré ou enseignement secondaire dispensé dans les collèges (premier cycle, classe de sixième à la troisième), lycées professionnels (deuxième cycle professionnel) et lycées (deuxième cycle général, classe de seconde à la terminale, et technologie).
- Enseignement supérieur dispensé dans les lycées, écoles spécialisées, grandes écoles ou universités.

#### Bilan

### XIIème chambre des députés: la paix, le pain et Toujan Fayçal

Depuis le décret royal de lundi dernier, la chambre des députés est dissoute. L'occasion de revenir sur l'une des assemblées les plus controversées du régime hachémite. Quatre ans marqués par la paix avec Israël, les émeutes du pain et la première femme député.

#### «Elle était

à la hauteur de ses responsabilités et a su relever les défis». Ainsi le roi Hussein exprimait-il cette semaine sa satisfaction à l'égard du travail parlementaire de la chambre des députés. Au lendemain de leur élection en novembre 1993, pour la première fois avec le système électoral de la voix unique, les députés, qui viennent d'accéder à une sorte de «retraite» (temporaire pour certains), étaient à l'époque qualifiés par le roi de «meilleurs des meilleurs» parmi le peuple.



Sous la présidence de Taber Masri, l'ancien premier ministre et l'homme politique libéral, la chambre a réussi à renforcer

son pouvoir vis-à-vis de l'exécutif. Cette tendance n'a pas plu au souverain qui, selon le témoignage de Masri lui-même, lui a adressé des critiques sévères. «La conclusion du traité de paix doit s'imposer à tout autre objectif», lui aurait-il signifié, préférant ainsi sacrifier l'indépendance du pouvoir législatif.

Sous la présidence de Sa'ad Sour, depuis trois ans maintenant, la chambre a la réputation d'être soumise au pouvoir exécutif. Il est vrai qu'avec une majorité qui variait entre 50 à 55 voix (sur 80 sièges), le gouvernement pouvait faire passer toutes les lois et les décisions qu'il voulait.

Cette XIIème chambre se sera distinguée dans les annales de la vie parlementaire, en adoptant plusieurs lois importantes, à commencer bien sûr par le traité de paix jordano-israélien fin 1994. Ce dernier avait pourtant été rejeté par 23

députés, opposition non négligeable en ces temps de soumission.

La loi concernant la taxe à la vente a elle aussi suscité un long débat qui s'est terminé par une concession à l'opposition puisque son taux a été réduit de 10 à 7%.

Autre épisode de cette législature dont tous les Jordaniens se souviennent: la crise du pain. Le gouvernement de l'époque avait triplé le prix de cet aliment de base mais la confrontation avait été totale entre la quasi majorité de la chambre et le gouvernement de Kabarti. L'opposition habituelle islamique et de gauche était même parvenue à rallier une quinzaine de députés du centre. C'est seulement grâce à l'hésitation de quelques-uns que le premier ministre a imposé cette décision impopulaire et déclenché les manifestations violentes que l'on sait, à Kérak.

Les affrontements étaient

donc fréquents entre l'opposition parlementaire et le gouvernement mais ce-lui-ci est toujours sorti vainqueur. Les contestataires ont fini par boycotter certaines séances parce qu'ils étaient incapables d'influencer les décisions de la chambre basse, que les médias ont rapidement taxée de «docile» et dont ils ont critiqué le «rôle marginalisé». Pratiquée par des députés nourris d'ambition, la course aux postes ministériels, dans cette législature où les gouvernements (quatre en quatre ans) se sont succédés, a sans doute contribué un peu plus à réduire la confiance du peuple dans le pouvoir législatif. On citera l'exemple d'Ahmed Kassasbeh et Dib Abdallah, tous deux islamistes et celui du député de gauche Moustafa Ch'neikat, passés de l'opposition dans le camp gouvernemental par opportunisme.

Dernière caractéristique et non des moindres: une femme a intégré la chambre des députés pour la première fois dans l'histoire de la Jordanie. La célèbre Toujan Fayçal a plusieurs fois fait trembler les rangs de l'assemblée par son activisme extraordinaire et sincère, qui lui a valu le surnom de «seul homme de la chambre», comme pour souligner la lâcheté de ses collègues masculins. ■

Suleiman Sweiss

#### Parmi les autres mesures drastiques que

prévoit l'UNRWA (United Nations Works and Relief Agency): la réduction de 15% de son personnel et le gel des remboursements hospitaliers pendant deux mois. Il était également prévu d'abandonner l'embauche de 249 nouveaux professeurs malgré l'augmentation croissante du nombre d'étudiants. Mais le gouvernement israélien a finalement décidé de couvrir financièrement le recrutement de 172 nouveaux enseignants.

La situation reste pourtant tendue, alors que se poursuit le blocage draconien des territoires par Israël.

La classe politique demeure sceptique sur le montant du déficit de l'UNRWA: 20 millions de dollars, «même pas le prix d'un avion de combat américain», selon certains. Dans les couloirs de l'Autorité nationale palestinienne, on soupçonne les donateurs occidentaux de l'UNRWA de vouloir liquider la question des réfugiés à l'approche des négociations sur le statut final en obligeant les Palestiniens à s'installer définitivement dans leurs pays hôtes.

Si les dirigeants palestiniens ont demandé aux élèves de retourner dans leurs salles de classe, ils refusent toujours de payer pour toutes les dépenses de l'UNRWA. Ils attendent le pied ferme la réunion du 9 septembre prochain à Amman où les pays donateurs seront réunis pour décider du sort des réfugiés palestiniens. ■

H. B.



L'UNRWA doit rapidement résorber son déficit pour faire face au nombre croissant d'élèves dans les camps de réfugiés palestiniens. L'agence consacre déjà plus de 70% de son budget à l'éducation.

#### Trois questions au commissaire général adjoint de l'UNRWA

**Le Jourdain:** Pourquoi l'UNRWA a-t-elle pris de telles mesures impopulaires?  
**Abdel Moumen:** Notre décision de réduire un certain nombre de services répond à la crise financière que traverse en ce moment l'organisation. C'est une crise chronique mais elle a atteint cette fois des proportions difficiles à corriger. D'autre part les budgets de réserve de l'UNRWA sont totalement épuisés. Avec un déficit de 20 millions de dollars, nous avons dû prendre des mesures pour réduire nos dépenses. Mais nous les mettons en place à grand regret et nous ne souhaitons pas les voir s'éterniser.

**Le Jourdain:** De nombreux responsables palestiniens voient dans cette décision une démission politique: régler une fois pour toutes le problème des réfugiés à l'approche des négociations sur le statut final?  
**Abdel Moumen:** Les politiciens ne voient les choses que sous l'angle politique. Nous, nous voyons sous l'angle humanitaire. Il est faux de faire l'amalgame entre la question des réfugiés et les négociations sur le statut final.

**Le Jourdain:** Quelle solution envisagez-vous pour sortir de la crise?  
**Abdel Moumen:** Nous espérons qu'à la réunion du 9 septembre prochain, les pays donateurs se montreront généreux pour couvrir les dépenses de cette année. Ensuite, nous voulons introduire un dialogue avec les donateurs et les communautés de réfugiés dans l'ensemble des pays hôtes. C'est par ce dialogue à trois que nous pourrions répondre au plus près aux besoins des réfugiés palestiniens, en les mettant en accord avec les moyens des bailleurs de fonds.

Propos recueillis par Hassan Balawi, à Gaza

### C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

#### Cinéma

Cycle consacré à l'acteur Michel Piccoli. Les noces rouges, de Claude Chabrol (1972). Deux amants mal mariés chacun de leur côté envisagent de se débarrasser de leurs époux. Lundi 8 septembre à 20h30 au Centre culturel français. Tél.: 637009/636445/612658.

#### Exposition

Vingt panneaux et une projection vidéo sur la radioactivité, pour tout savoir sur le phénomène découvert par Pierre et Marie Curie. Au CCF, jusqu'au 30 septembre.







## INTERNET SPECIAL

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING &amp; HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

## Computer &amp; IT companies

Welcome to The Star's Workstation, the absolute source on what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. For us at 648288 or email us at StarNews@com.jo with your news and views.

Embedded Web servers promise to change the way we live and work:

## Future technologies, now

Jabra F. Ghneim

Special to The Star

OVER THE past centuries, the discovery of continents and lands overseas, which are termed as 'the new world' opened up tremendous opportunities for everybody involved.

Discovering the Americas for example, two new continents, added so much to the wealth of humankind. All the resources, cultures, and the human experience, in the Americas enriched, and still enriches mankind; and will continue to do so for generations to come. The same applies to the Internet universe. In the world of Web discovery, there seem to be endless opportunities for everybody, every adventurer, and every entrepreneur who wants success and glamour. While we talk about intranets and extranets, and how they will help enrich the human experience and help companies serve customers better, a new generation of programs and technologies promises to further enrich our experience. Among these new technologies is the embedded Web server technology. This technology provides the mean for remote and electronic devices (fax machines, alarm systems, mobile phones, etc.) to act as Web servers and gives them the ability to share and publish data via standard WWW HTML technologies.

A company called AllPen is the main producer of this technology right now. The company

started using it with PDAs or (palmtop computers) such as the Apple Newton and the Psion series—AllPen announced that



their technology has been ported to the Windows CE 2.0 system. The embedded Web server comes also with a lightweight mobile Web browser called NetHopper. This combination of a browser and a server is an ideal fit to allow devices to both access and publish Web-based information in a mobile fashion. Imagine that devices, such as camcorders, can be Web server-enabled thus making the currently recorded images accessible and viewable via the Web in real time. In addition the Web server utilizes various plug-in modules which allow users to transparently share their data anytime, over an Intranet or Internet, with any Web browser. A good example on the usefulness of these solutions could be as follows: Let us suppose you are a journalist in a trade conference. All you have

is a handheld computer equipped with an embedded Web server, with a mobile phone connected to it. You write your story or answers to an interview, then your editor calls on your server and retrieves the information and edits the story. Following that, a reporter with a digital camera enabled as a Web server takes conference pictures. The layout and graphic design people contact your camera and get the pictures. Then they dial up the editor's machine and get the edited articles. This way magazines or newspapers gets edited and published virtually.

Daimler-Benz is currently working with AllPen to equip its cars with embedded Web servers. Daimler-Benz wants to hook drivers to a Geographic Information Systems that keep them informed on where they are, or how far they are from a specific location, and it even provides a map on the windshield if needed. When you see this technology displayed in a futuristic TV series don't smirk, because it is for real.

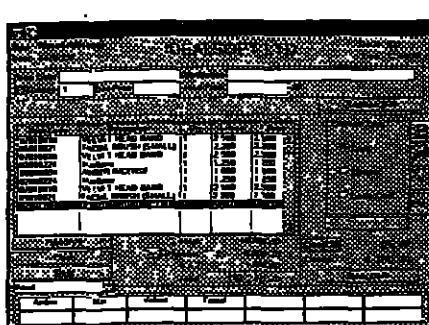
I believe that a great complement to this technology will be the vector based compression VBC. VBC is a compression technique that can reduce a 256K high resolution image, for example, to 6-10K maintaining the image's high resolution. This allows for faster download times and lesser frustration with the technology. I believe, like many others, that the embedded Web server technology will be a big hit when this format

## Al Muhaseb Al Mithali applies 'Plug & Play' to P.O.S: An 'ideal' solution for Point-of-Sale, from IdealSoft

AS PART of their continued efforts to develop financial management and accounting solutions, based around Al Muhaseb Al Mithali, IdealSoft have introduced a comprehensive 'Point-Of-Sale' system, tailored to the needs of retailers and shop owners.

What makes the IdealSoft solution stand out is that it provides solutions to virtually any problem a retailer might face.

"We have managed to achieve comprehensive features for Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale through close cooperation with early clients," said Mr. Essam Jallad, Assistant General Manager of IdealSoft. "Putting the product through long-term testing on-site has allowed us to deliver a 'point-of-sale' system that caters to evolving user needs," he added, "which undoubtedly make it stand out as a flexible solution." The flexibility of Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale lies in a number of factors, not available on other systems. For starters, users can pick the hardware they want to put together a 'point of sale' system. Normally, a point-of-sale system is made up of a cash drawer, tied to a PC unit, including a small monitor and keyboard. A bar code solution is added, in the form of a handheld scanner and accompanying



software to identify the scanned codes. Seeing as Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale is platform independent, all that needs to be done is simply add the descriptions of hardware components to the software's library, and it's up and running. This allows buyers to get cheaper components, if they wish to. What's more, due to specialized programming, Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale is the only solution available that applies the 'maximum storage unit' principle. In other words, if a product arrives at the store, packed in large box or crate including a certain number of units inside, Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale can provide a bar-code reading on the outside of this box, without the need to open it and enter each unit separately. This is a very useful feature that utilizes the bar code facility offered by consolidated units.

Also, Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale provides the ability to calculate products with varying prices. These are mainly products that are

weighed and the unit price per kilogram changes on a daily basis. By entering the new prices everyday, Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale can account for sales by a connection to the electronic scale unit, directly conveying the amount to the point-of-sale system. Several added advantages come with Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale, such as the ability to connect it to a hand-held scanner, for example the

Videx bar code scanner, which allows retailers to simply store information on all their products found on the shelves at the end of the day, by pointing the unit at the product and 'shoot' it. All this stored information can be easily absorbed into Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale, then the software compares the information with the last records and the difference is reported. That difference is what has left the shelves as sales or otherwise. Also, if for some reason there is a power black out, the handheld scanner allows for 'off-line' work to be performed, later being fed as information into the point-of-sale system. So far, IdealSoft have provided the solution in tailored versions to retailers and restaurants, in Jordan and in the Gulf. "The potential for our product in neighbouring countries is quite promising, with several clients in the United Arab Emirates already using Al Muhaseb Al Mithali/Point of Sale," said Mr. Jallad. For more information, contact IdealSoft at telephone 688123.

## News update

## Smart Systems offers Gateway 2000

Smart Systems has recently been appointed as the Jordan distributor for Gateway 2000 products. Gateway 2000 is a leading American PC brand, which took the international market by storm over the past decade, due to its excellent quality, attractive design and low price! Smart Systems provide the full range of Gateway 2000 desktops, notebooks and servers. For information, con-

tact Smart Systems at 704269.

## Mac OS 8.0 in Arabic

Apple has announced the Arabic version of its new Mac operating system, Mac OS 8.0. Apple is talking to the major Arabic software developers who are pledging support for the new operating system. Companies like Winsoft, Lay-out Ltd., Zeine and others will develop applications to utilize the advanced features of Mac OS 8.0.

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By John Barrett

IN SPORT as in life, timing is everything. For the 20-year-old Australian Luke Smith, the moment is now. Ever since this senior from the University of Las Vegas won the National Collegiate Athletic Association singles and doubles titles in May, a feat that earned him a wild card place in this week's US Open, Smith has been the subject of intense scrutiny from the management companies.

"I'll have to select one before the end of the Open," he says. "I have no contracts at the moment. I'm wearing Prince clothes, Nike shoes, Oakley glasses and using a Pro-Kennex racket keeping my options open," he added, chuckling.

By tradition, inter-collegiate champions are fierce competitors. They have to be. The competitive environment at American colleges is legendary: eight or more hungry young guys fighting for six team places: three hours of

practice a day plus physical training; every weekend inter-college singles and doubles matches all without umpires from January to the end of May.

Those are the conditions which moulded the emerging careers of these champions, all of whom went on to win Wimbledon and many other Grand Slam titles: Bob Falkenberg (University of Southern California 1946), Tony Trabert (Cincinnati 1951), Alex Olmedo (USC 1956, 1958), Arthur Ashe (University of California, Los Angeles 1965), Stan Smith (USC 1968), Jimmy Connors (UCLA 1971) and John McEnroe (Stanford 1978).

Smith knows he is in illustrious company. "Ashe is the one I admire," he says. "He won the singles and doubles. It's hard to believe I did the same. I was ranked 65 [among the collegiate players] going into the NCAA and it was a 64 draw so I was lucky to get in."

There was no luck about his progress, however. Smith's six winning matches cost him no sets and only 39 games. Not since the victory of Stanford's Jared Palmer in 1991 had an unseeded player claimed the title.

Appropriately, Smith's partner in the doubles was fellow Australian Tim Blenkinsop, a school friend from Adelaide and the

man who was responsible for getting Smith to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the first place.

"I was just 17 and had finished high school. Tim was in his first year at Las Vegas and had told Larry Easley, the coach, I might be interested in a scholarship. Easley offered me the chance to train for three hours a day in a perfect climate with great facilities and good coaching," Smith remembers. "That sounded great to me. Tennis was all I wanted to do. I'd played inter-state for South Australia in every age group from the 12-and-under up to and by then was top 10 in the under 18s in Australia. But I wasn't mature enough to go on the pro circuit. I realised that and saw Las Vegas as a great opportunity."

Smith's parents were equally convinced. His father Peter is a school teacher who had encouraged his three sons to take part in all sports.

"Luke played soccer and athletics seriously as a kid," he said during a first visit to New York with his wife to watch Luke's Grand Slam debut. "It had been the same with his elder brother Brett who is 24, and now with Josh who is 15. We've always been a keen tennis family. I spend a

lot of time coaching outside teaching.

"We had a court in the backyard in Eden Hills, Adelaide, pretty serious."

"The Australian Davis Cup player John Fitzgerald used to stay with us when he was young and I coached him. I guess my young guys grew up with other serious players at home so it wasn't surprising that Luke was playing club matches at the age of seven."

As a teenager Smith was an extrovert who was always getting into scrapes and breaking limbs. "I was a wild child in those days," he says. "We had moved to a farm at Clarendon in the Adelaide Hills. I was into motor bikes, water skiing, fishing anything active. But America changed me physically and mentally. I went from 6ft and 150 pounds to 6ft 2ins and 185 pounds."

"I realised I had to get serious if I was going to achieve anything as a tennis player." As he embarks on a professional career he is fully aware of the difficulties that lie ahead. "These guys are incredibly fit and fast but I'm prepared to work my butt off to get there," he says.

His match against 10th seeded Marcelo

Rios on Wednesday, a comprehensive 6-1 6-4 beating, vividly illustrates the gap that lies between promise and fulfillment.

"I hadn't played anyone of this calibre, knew it was going to be tough, but this was really on another level. He picked apart my game style serve-volley, chip-charge and came up with some really great passing shots. His consistency really surprised me."

Next for Smith will be an attachment to the Australian Davis Cup team that will play the Americans in Washington from September 21. It will be a happy return to the city where, in July, he played his first professional tournament and won two matches.

"That will be a fantastic experience," he says. "I know they've got Sampras and Chang but I think we have a great chance. The Davis Cup means so much to us. Patrick Rafter's a tough cookie and Mark Philippoussis can beat anyone when he's hot and we have the Woodies [Mark Woodford and Todd Woodbridge, five time Wimbledon champions] in doubles. It's such a great chance to train with those guys. I've met them all but I'll really get to know them in Washington."

It will not be long before we all get to know Luke Smith.

As his new coach Robert Trogolo says: "He's very talented and he works hard. When you have that combination you have a serious player. He's also very strong and he's got the heart. It's all you need."

Financial Times Syndicated

## Wild child gets a wild card

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## First women's speed test race in the Middle East

WOMEN'S SPEED test racing is an innovative idea in Jordan and the Middle East. In cooperation with Al Asway, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan organized the first women's race. Speed Test '97. Under the patronage of HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein, 22 young ladies participated.

The winner of last Friday's race was Tala Al Shaw, a 23 old marketing student in her third year at Al Zeltouna University. "At first I didn't want to participate because it was a women's only race, and I believe that if women want to show their full potential, then they must compete in mixed events," Tala told The Star. "However, I was finally persuaded by the

Automobile Club, although it was a late entry." The speed test was a 3.75 kilometer race, and Tala won first place in 2.19 minutes. She only made one foul. The winner of second place came in at 2.31 minutes. Tala started driving before she was 18, but it was only after she got her licence that she started to race.

Tala registered a new record in the Tal Al-Rumman rally two weeks ago. The previous record was 2.33 minutes and Tala came in at 2.30 minutes.

Tala won the special category for women participants that was created for the Jordan Rally held last May. She says that she would like to go on racing for ever.



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